

"American Angels of Mercy"

1904

DR. ANITA NEWCOMB MCGEE'S
PICTORIAL RECORD OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR



FREDERIC A. SHARF

WITH

MICHAEL G. RHODE AND J.T.H. CONNOR



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Frederic Sharf is a scholar and collector who specializes in art, photography and unpublished manuscript material relating to wars fought during the several decades before and after 1900. He is a resident of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. His co-authors and the co-curators of this exhibition, Michael G. Rhode (Chief Archivist) and J.T.H. Connor (Assistant Director for Collections), are employed by the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. They provided valuable assistance in the preparation of this catalogue.

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Front Cover: 76. American and Japanese Red Cross nurses attending a wounded Japanese soldier, Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima, Japan.
Photograph by Herbert Ponting.

Back Cover: 87. Japanese wounded in Ward 10, Military Hospital in Hiroshima, Japan. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.

Table of Contents

Introduction to the Exhibition:	
Adrianne Noë, Ph.D, Director, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology	4
Foreword:	
Frederic A. Sharf	5
The American Nurses in Japan:	
Anita Newcomb McGee, M.D.	7
Personal Experiences in the Russo-Japanese War:	
Anita Newcomb McGee, M.D.	11
Anita Newcomb McGee, M.D.: A Chronological Summary of her Mission to Serve the Japanese War Effort	15
Chronology of the Russo-Japanese War	18
Selected Photographs:	
Yokohama: Arrival Ceremonies	23
Tokyo: Guests of the Japanese Red Cross Society	27
Hiroshima in Wartime: The Hiroshima Reserve Hospital	35
Japanese Hospital Ships	51
Antung: Japanese Hospitals at the Battlefront	55
Matsuyama: Russian Prisoner of War Camps	65
Herbert G. Ponting: A Correspondent in Wartime Japan	73
Checklist of Exhibition Photographs	74
Bibliography	79
Exhibit Credits	80

Introduction to the Exhibition

ADRIANNE NOË, PH.D., DIRECTOR,

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE, ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY

When Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee led a group of trained military nurses to work as volunteers in Japanese military hospitals in 1904, the Japanese nation hailed her group as "American Angels of Mercy." So they might have seemed almost a century ago, as they worked alongside nurses and physicians responding to the medical demands of the Russo-Japanese War. They traveled far under the banner of American humanitarianism in a time of national conflict. What they saw, and how they experienced an unfamiliar culture, its collective response to wartime needs and the honors paid to its dead, form the core of the exhibition we present at the National Museum of Health and Medicine of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. With this display of the works of noted American, British, and Japanese photographers, the Museum draws from its nationally significant Otis Historical Archives to assemble images from Dr. McGee's 1904 trip, presenting another in its series of photographic exhibitions documenting military medicine in cultural, scientific, and historical contexts.

The Otis Historical Archives hold several of the many collections comprising the National Museum of Health and Medicine of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, which itself began as an effort to improve the medical and surgical care of the soldier during America's Civil War. Today the Museum continues that effort, collecting, studying, and presenting the national medical collections to a growing audience of medical professionals, scholars, scientists, and the public. In the case of these extraordinary photographs, Dr. McGee herself made the donation, along with a few hastily rolled bandages and packages of sterilized cotton. Mike Rhode and Jim Connor add their knowledge of photography and medical history to these objects, bringing to life the fascinating story of Dr. McGee and of her time in Japan. But the Museum also collects contemporary medical artifacts, both the spectacular and the commonplace, to document medicine and the efforts of those who would contribute to it.

Fred Sharf merits special mention and our gratitude. His commitment to the Museum and his abiding appreciation for the subjects represented in the exhibition pair with his generosity and scholarly spirit to make possible this catalog. In turn, this catalog represents a permanent contribution to our collective understanding of a war, the individuals who fought it, and those who would seek to repair the inevitable wounds to the body and to the spirit.

September, 2001
Washington, DC

Foreword

FREDERIC A. SHARF



180. Dr. McGee wearing medals earned for service in the Russo-Japanese war.

Anita Newcomb McGee M.D. (1864-1940) attended Newnham College, Cambridge University, as well as the University of Geneva, prior to her marriage in 1888 to geologist William John McGee (who later served as Secretary of the United States Inland Waterways Commission). Three children were born, the oldest in 1889, the youngest in 1902 (the middle child died at the age of nine months).

Dr. McGee's interests were wide-ranging, including geology, genealogy, history, eugenics, and anthropology. She graduated from what is now George Washington University in 1892 with a medical degree, then did post-graduate study in gynecology at Johns Hopkins University. She ran an active medical practice in Washington until 1896. She then turned to research and work with the Daughters of the American Revolution (among other activities, organizing a hospital corps for

the DAR that could assist the United States Army and Navy in 1898). She fought hard for the establishment of an Army Nurse Corps, which finally received congressional approval in 1901.

In the fall of 1903, with war between Japan and Russia looming, Dr. McGee volunteered her services as a supervisor of nurses to the Japanese government. She had valuable experience; she had been Acting Assistant Surgeon General of the United States during the Spanish-American War, and had organized and served as president of the Society of Spanish-American War Nurses after the war. In February 1904 she assembled a team of nine nurses and accompanied them to Japan for a six-month tour of duty; they returned to the United States in early November 1904.

Arriving in San Francisco, Dr. McGee found that the United States government had decided to name her an official army attaché, attached to the Tokyo Legation of the United States with specific permission to be assigned to battlefield duty—which was exactly what she had wanted. She embarked on 19 November for the return trip to Tokyo, arriving in Yokohama on 7 December 1904.

Dr. McGee received the Japanese Imperial Order of the Sacred Crown, the decoration of the Red Cross Society of Japan, and two Japanese war medals for her work during the Russo-Japanese War. She was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.



The nurses who accompanied Dr. McGee were: Minnie Cooke, Mary E. Gladwin, Alice Kemmer, Ella B. King, Elizabeth R. Kratz, Adelaide Mackareth, Adele Neeb, Sophia Newell, and Genevieve Russell. Five came from the Red Cross Society of Philadelphia, the remainder from the Spanish-American War Nurses Society. The basic expenses of the trip were underwritten by a fund raised in the United States through the efforts of these two organizations. After arriving in Japan the ten ladies were guests of the Red Cross Society of Japan.

As early as 1877, a benevolent society was organized in Japan to care for sick and wounded troops from the civil war then being fought. Over the next ten years this became the Red Cross Society of Japan which in 1887, having grown to a membership of approximately 100,000, was officially recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross at its annual meeting in Germany.

By 1904 the Red Cross Society of Japan had about one million members. This phenomenal growth was largely due to the personal involvement of the Imperial family and the members of Japan's nobility. The leadership provided by the aristocracy created various adjunct organizations: the Ladies Volunteer Nursing Association,

dedicated to raising the status of female nurses in Japan; the Ladies Patriotic Association, which organized hospitality centers for troop trains traveling across the country; and the Imperial Relief Association, which raised money for the families of soldiers and sailors killed or wounded in combat.



Dr. McGee and her team of nurses were not the only Western medical persons in Japan during the Russo-Japanese War; but they were unique in actually serving in a Japanese hospital. Most of those who came were observers, such as military attachés who were allowed to

go to the battlefield, and a number of prominent individuals who came to admire the proficiency of Japanese medicine.

The most prominent observers were British: Dr. Francis E. Fremantle, Miss Ethel McCaul, Mrs. Theresa Eden Richardson, and Dr. Sir Frederick Treves all visited Japan in 1904 and shared a common history in having served in South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War. The most prominent American was Dr. Louis Livingston Seaman, who had served in the Spanish-American War (both in Cuba and in the Philippines), and had then served in China during the Boxer Rebellion. Dr. Seaman made two trips to Japan, and on his second trip was able to observe conditions at the Manchurian Front in the spring of 1905.



111. Dr. McGee with representatives of Red Cross Society at Antung. (see pg. 47 for full caption)

The American Nurses in Japan

BY ANITA NEWCOMB McGEE, M.D.

Manuscript in the collection of
Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf

Material from this handwritten manuscript
was later published as part of an article in
Century Magazine, April 1905.

Had we been princesses, the hurrahs of the crowds could not have been louder, nor their friendly greetings more hearty, than they were when my nurses and I landed in Japan. We had crossed a continent and a great ocean to give a little help to a people engaged in a life-and-death struggle, and that people poured out its gratitude in a thousand ways during the whole of our stay in the land. We were told that Japan, high and low, rich and poor, had never before given such a welcome to a foreigner; but fortunately for our modesty, we knew that this was not a tribute to ourselves as individuals. To the Japanese we were the personal representatives, not of a government, but of a nation, and that nation the greatest, and to them the most friendly on earth. Besides, we were women. We belonged to another race, to another religion, and yet we had travelled from the other side of the world to render service to their heroes. In their eyes this was the height of charity and friendship, and their admiration and gratitude knew no bounds.

The governor of the province and other officials of Yokohama with delegations from Tokyo and many representatives of the press and of patriotic societies came out to our steamer in decorated launches, and hundreds of people were assembled on the wharf to greet us. We passed through the city in beflagged rikshaws, bowing to the hurrahing crowds and were entertained at "welcome meetings" and banquets until we doubted whether all could be real. But if such was our reception at Yokohama, how can our welcome to the capital city of Tokyo next day be described? Representatives of the government and of the House of Peers; generals of the army; officers of the Red Cross Society; the governor and the mayor; princesses and other distinguished ladies, titled and untitled; missionaries; trained nurses; delegations of school children, and finally

the common people of the city, all offered their heartfelt greetings.

At the time of our arrival in Japan the great battles of the war were yet unfought, and so general was the desire to see and hear us that we were kept in Tokyo about four weeks before being escorted to our main post at Hiroshima in western Japan. This time was filled to the brim with welcome-meetings, receptions, official calls, visits to hospitals, to public, private, and missionary schools, to city improvements (some of them surpassing what we have in our own capital), to churches and temples. Everywhere I was called on to deliver an address or to respond to a speech. We were under orders from the moment of landing, and our movements were directed by the officers of the Red Cross Society, especially by one who kindly acted as escort and guide on all important occasions. This was our honored friend, Dr. Takaki, surgeon-general of the navy, retired, and member of the House of Peers.

While we were in Tokyo, the Empress visited the Red Cross Society hospital in which a room is reserved especially for her use on such occasions. Here we were formally presented, and Her Majesty's words to me, as interpreted by a maid of honour, were these: "Empress is very glad to hear about Mrs. McGee's kindness of coming to Japan from such far-distant country on purpose to assist in the charity affairs of nursing the Japanese sick and wounded soldiers and also the others who belong to the present war." (The last words evidently refer to the Russian prisoners.)

Both the Emperor and the Empress afterward gave repeated evidence of their interest and sent messages of thanks and appreciation. The same is true of other members of the imperial family and of high officials, especially the minister of war to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude for numerous kindnesses, both official and personal.

Of the enthusiasm and gratitude shown by the people themselves, a few typical instances may give some idea. The trip from Tokyo to Kyoto, the ancient capital, took about twenty-four hours, and although the train started at 6 o'clock of a rainy morning, bearers of some of the most honored names in the empire were there to bid us farewell. At every station we passed in daylight there was a crowd to greet us, to present addresses of welcome. They brought flowers, fruit, and local produce of all kinds, and shouted *Banzai!* ("Hurrah!") Besides the governors of the provinces which we passed, and the mayors of the towns, we met delegations from patriotic societies, from Christian churches, from the army and the schools. Even where there were no stations the peasants were watching for us and ran toward the train waving flags. There was little sleep for any of us that night. At 1 A.M. when we stopped at Gifu, some thirty men and women,

each bearing a lantern painted with a red cross, showed their respect by silently standing in a row opposite our car, all immovable except one who, when I bowed, approached to present flowers.

The day in Kyoto was full of most delightful and interesting experiences, after which we continued our journey to Hiroshima under the escort of Baron Ozawa, vice-president of the Red Cross Society, and other gentlemen. The garrison city of Himeji, west of Kobe, was reached at three in the morning; and in spite of the darkness we were aroused by *banzai's* from the hundreds of people who crowded the platform. The train stopped long enough for the lieutenant-general and other high officers, the city officials and their wives, soldiers and citizens to offer us a welcome to Japan and thanks for our coming, and for me to reply from my window in a little speech which my interpreter knew by heart from scores of previous deliveries. A band—and bands are rare in Japan—was also there to play for us. Instinctively we turned to one another to ask, "How many generals of our army busy with war duties would go in full-dress uniform, in the middle of the night, to thank a party of foreign women for coming to nurse their soldiers?"

Three hours later, the 4th day of our journey was splendidly begun, for I stepped out upon the broad station platform, not only to shake hands with the usual delegations, including several American missionaries, but also to walk before rows of a thousand school children, whose bright earnest faces made one forget fatigue. The boys and girls of a great orphan asylum had gathered to sing a song composed in our honor, and they rendered it with genuine enthusiasm.

Later that day, at a hamlet which could boast no officials and no societies, yet where our train stopped ten minutes, there stood a typical country schoolmaster with his female assistant and their twenty elementary pupils. In very broken English, he bashfully told me he had been teaching his pupils about benevolence and charity and how these virtues were exemplified by our coming so great a distance to aid the people of another land. To impress the lesson more deeply on their memories, he said he had brought them to see and greet us. An incident like this throws a vivid light on the Japanese mind and ideas of education. One of the most remarkable things in the Japanese character is the combination of that fiery heroism in battle, of which all have read, with the gentleness, courtesy, and simple-minded, almost childlike frankness which was shown to us.

Every day of our stay we were more impressed by the marvelous possibilities of this new factor in world history, and by our own need, as a nation, to understand the Japanese people, to be friends with them, and to learn from them. On the other hand, I do not agree [with] the writers who have called them and their military

organization "perfect," any more than they themselves do. In fact, I found less vain self-esteem than we may see anywhere in these United States; and one of their strongest traits is the never-ceasing desire to improve themselves. For a generation they have studied, and they continue to study, the civilization of the outside world, but they are not mere copyists. On the contrary, their greatest strength lies in their ability to judge wisely; to adopt only what is good, and then to improve on that.

But let it not be supposed from the foregoing that we were welcomed only by the men of Japan. On the contrary, the women of this most courteous nation were not behind the men in showing the same feelings, though by somewhat different methods, and for many of them I grew to feel deep affection and esteem. Yet as every one knows, the growth which contact with the West has produced in Japan has but slightly affected its women. I maintain that a people whose men progress without its women is like a man trying to walk vigorously with one foot free while the other is wrapped in confining bandages. That the Japanese are beginning to appreciate this became evident in various ways. The subject was touched on in speeches and in several of the scores of addresses which were received from all parts of Japan.

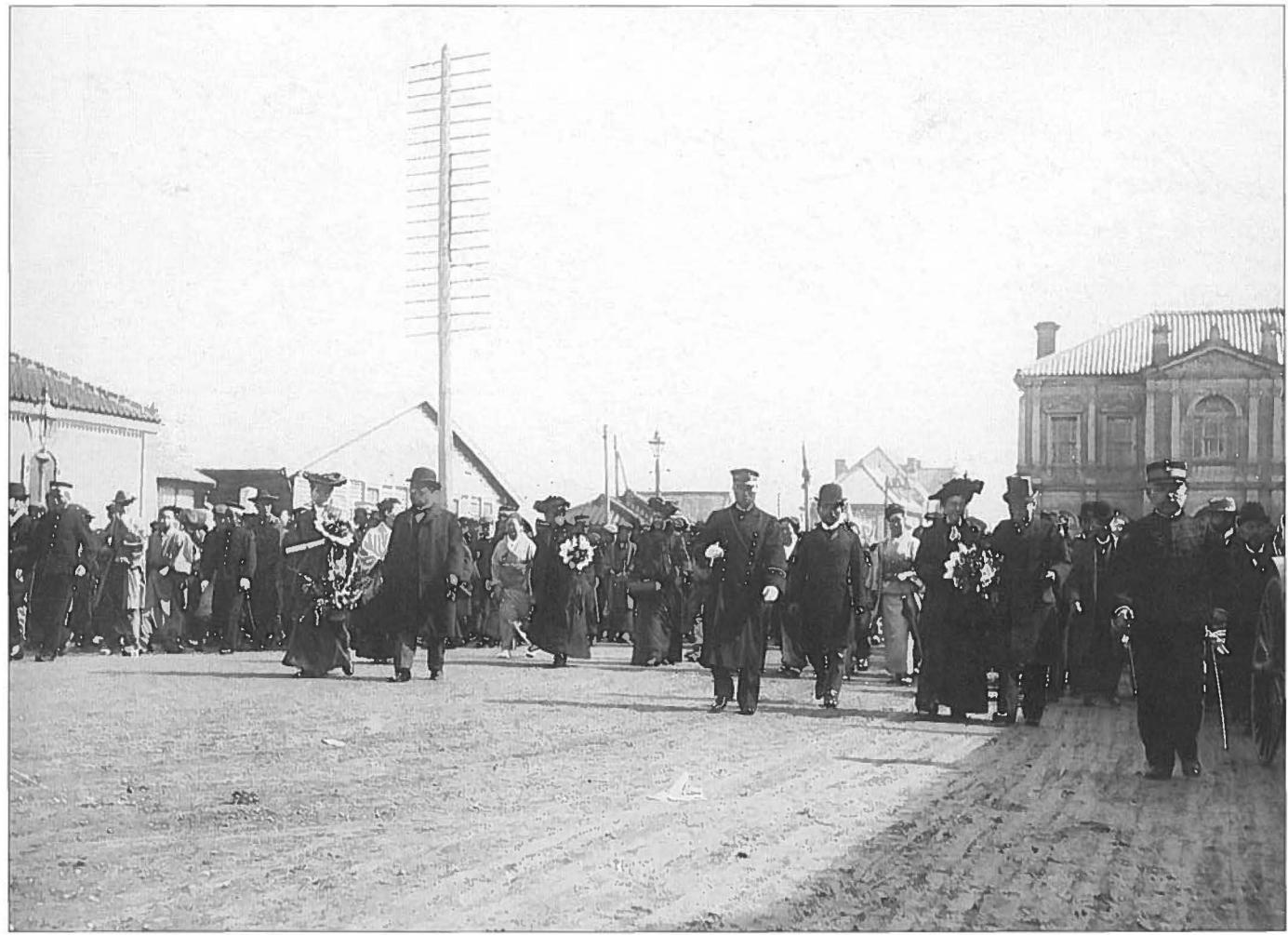
The president of the Red Cross Society, Count Matsukata, one of the "Elder Statesmen" of Japan, in his formal address at the banquet he gave us, said: "We have every reason to believe that your services will be in a great measure helpful, not only to our society, but also to our countrywomen at large." One of the finest speeches I ever heard was delivered extemporaneously in English by a Japanese professor of science in a school at Kobe. Addressing us, he concluded thus: "Your coming to the help of our country at the time of great need, I am sure, will revolutionize the old idea that has been so long clung to by our women, that they have no mission outside of their home. They will find out what there is in women by your noble example, and waken to their responsibilities." Letters from missionaries tell the same story. One of them wrote of the excellent work being done by a patriotic society of women, founded in consequence of our coming to Japan, and she adds: "The women of this country have taken a great step in advance, since this war began, in finding how much they can do, in public and private, which before they never dreamed possible for them."

To my surprise and great pleasure, the hand of fellowship was cordially extended to us not only by the Christians but also by the Buddhists of Japan. Their largest sect, the Zen of Soto, after gathering representatives of its priesthood from other parts of the country and assembling a large company of believers, gave us a "Welcome-meeting" at its Tokyo temple, and other sects were equally friendly and broadminded.

At the close of the specified six months of our service in the Japanese army, it was planned by the authorities that we were to be taken on a tour of the country; but the nursing work was then so heavy that we begged permission to remain in Hiroshima until the time came for us to sail from Nagasaki on a United States army transport. Before leaving Japan, however, the scenes

attendant on our arrival were repeated on an even larger scale.

This story of our reception will have served its purpose if it conveys to Americans the message of Japanese friendship toward them with which I was charged, and if it helps them to understand and appreciate their neighbors across the western sea.



7. Arrival of Mrs. McGee in Yokohama, April 1904.



Personal Experiences in the RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

BY ANITA NEWCOMB McGEE, M.D.

This account of Dr. McGee's service in 1905 was taken from a contemporary typescript of lecture notes and slightly edited. It is derived from the collection of the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, in Washington, D.C.

At the beginning of the war it was not considered wise by our War Department to send medical officers as military attachés to either Russia or Japan, though our attachés from other branches of the service went out to the East comparatively early. As that great war progressed, however, it was realized that important lessons to our army were being lost through the absence of medical officers with the combatants. This led finally, in November 1904, to the selection of two such officers for detail as military attachés to the American legations at St. Petersburg and Tokyo for duty with the armies operating in the field. Colonel Valery Havard, Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Army, was selected to go to the former, and the choice for the latter mission fell on me. On arrival at Yokohama the *Manchuria* of the Pacific Mail, on which I was a passenger, was carefully piloted into the harbor. Supposedly this was necessary on account of the numerous mines placed there, but as no mines were removed from these waters at the close of the war when Yokohama was freely opened to the commerce of the world, it is safe to assume that the ceremony attending our entrance was merely an artifice of war.

Diplomacy is not to be hurried, and I found on reporting to our Minister in Tokyo that my plan of going to Manchuria immediately was not possible of fulfillment. The last days of the year 1904 were not characterized by any great activity on the part of either Russians or Japanese in the north, but at Port Arthur the latter were pressing nearer and nearer to the doomed fortress. Naturally, therefore, every foreign attaché, no matter what his special mission, was anxious to go to the 3rd Japanese Army, that of General Nogi at Port Arthur. In my own case this did not prove practicable and I was

finally assigned to the Second Army commanded by General Oku.

I will touch very lightly on my experiences in Japan. Aside from boys hawking [newspaper] extras, which the Japanese term *gomei*, running swiftly through the streets ringing the bells which they all carried,¹ and many war cartoons displayed on buildings, it was remarkable how little evidence of a life-and-death struggle with a powerful foe was apparent in journeying about the country. A good many soldiers are always seen in Japan, so their presence at the time of which I speak did not attract any particular attention from the visitor. In fact, the casual observer could hardly have realized that a war was going on except for the many sick and wounded who filled special trains on the railway and were carried from the stations in long lines to the hospitals.

During the war, Japan provided beds in her reserve hospitals at home for about 70,000 patients, and in addition, accommodations were furnished for about 10,000 suitable cases in convalescent camps. All of these sick, wounded and convalescents had every possible comfort which their country could supply. As an example of the efficiency of the Japanese medical department organization, it should be noted that some of the wooden wards of the hospitals were built and made ready for the reception of patients within 48 hours of the time when notification was received that they would be needed.

I made a thorough inspection of the hospitals in Tokyo and Hiroshima, the latter the most important place in Japan from the standpoint of the medical observer, and visited the convalescent camp at Atami, one of the most beautiful spots in Japan. Here not only were the material wants of the convalescent officers and soldiers provided for by a grateful government, but even their amusements were not forgotten. One of the most patronized of the latter were six little fish ponds in which soldiers were permitted to fish for goldfish.

I was also given the opportunity to go to Matsuyama on the Inland Sea, where the largest hospital for prisoners of war was located, which at this time had also a number of sound [healthy] Russian officers who had just been transferred from Port Arthur. The Japanese were rightfully very proud of Matsuyama, where they gave their captured enemies quite as good care as their own soldiers received.

On the 2nd of February 1905 I finally sailed from Ujina, the great war port. I was given passage on an old friend, the *Rohilla*, which had formerly been on the Hong Kong-Manila run. The *Rohilla* was one of the twenty hospital ships which the Japanese had in commission at this time. Two of them belonged to that model organization, the Red Cross Society of Japan. At the end of the war the Japanese had also 90 transports. This shows the military advantage of a great subsidized fleet.

Our passage to Dalny was a very slow one. The sea at this time was alive with floating mines, which necessitated special care in navigation, and we had an almost constant succession of snow squalls. Our delay really proved of little moment, however, as the harbor at Dalny had been frozen for a day or two immediately preceding our arrival, so we really reached the magnificent dock nearly as soon as would have been the case if the time of our crossing had been much shorter.

The excellent harbor which the Russians created at Dalny before the war proved of incalculable value to the Japanese, whose officers frequently stated to me that it would have been impossible for them to supply their armies in the field if the Russians had not been so kind to them. Dalny, after its capture, was always the principal Manchurian port under its new name, Tairen. The Manchurian railway led north from Dalny, with a branch to Port Arthur, and another to Yingkow. The main line passes through Tashichiao, Liaoyang, and Mukden on its way to Siberia. As it fell into the hands of the Japanese, they were compelled to change its wide gauge to their narrow one.

I had made a previous attempt to reach Port Arthur but had been refused. I now renewed this request. The military attaché is one of the greatest nuisances in modern warfare, as he is always ready with requests to go somewhere or to do something, and on account of this official position he must be shown every consideration. I finally did succeed in going to Port Arthur after a very few days at Dalny.

On entering Port Arthur the first sight which met the eyes of the visitor were the wrecked railway cars at the station. These had been hit many times during the siege. The defenses of Port Arthur were of a very elaborate character. Major Kuhn,² of our own army, [accompanied me and] took photographs. Port Arthur was a very interesting place for me, not only on account of some of the scenes, but because of the sick and wounded, a number of thousands of whom remained at this time. I could not remain here, however, more than a very few days, for although it was still bitterly cold, the middle of February was approaching and I had a feeling that active operations could not be much longer delayed at the front.

I was suffering from an attack of the gripe when I left Port Arthur for the north [on 11 February]. Of course, my misfortunes multiplied. I missed the connecting train at Nanshan and found no shelter except a telegraph operator's hut, where I found a place to lie on the floor in front of the only door. This was the only bad night I spent in Manchuria, and at the time I believed that every one of the three or four hundred thousand men which Japan had in that province fell over me, sometime between 9 P.M. and 4 A.M. the next morning when I took

the train for Liaoyang. This was distant but little over two hundred miles, but the journey was then over twenty four hours long.

I finally joined the other foreign attachés on 15 of February at Shalaho [presumably Shih-li-ho], a little Chinese village. Up to the time of the battle of Mukden, my time was spent in seeing [the Japanese army outposts] and in making the usual visits of courtesy. On February 26, in a blinding snowstorm, we rejoined army headquarters, which had moved to a Chinese village about 15 miles to the west of the railway. The next day an opportunity was given to join a division headquarters. This possessed certain advantages, as at a division headquarters one was likely to get a nearer view of many of the phases of the battle than if one remained with army headquarters. On February 28, in company with three other officers, a German, a Frenchman, and a Britisher, I went to the 8th Division at Heikoutai, the scene of one of the most terrible battles of the war.

Early on the morning of March 1 we foreigners joined the division commander on a hill just across the river Hun from Heikoutai. From this point the battle was spread in an immense panorama, as the division to which we were attached was attacking Changtang [Changtan]. The battle literally raged all day on our front without much progress being made, but finally, by a night attack in the early morning of March 2, Changtang was taken by the 8th Division.³

After taking Changtang, the 8th Division was not so heavily engaged, but the 5th Division to our right had a hard fight, which we saw very well from the roof of a temple. Flat ground such as that over which the battle of Mudken was fought by the 2nd Japanese Army makes it difficult for an observer to get close enough for a good view, but on the other hand, any slight elevation enables him to see everything within a wide area. We spent the night of the 2nd with division headquarters at Hochangtzu.

Early the next morning (March 3) the division headquarters again advanced. We were not so very seriously engaged on this day, though the advance was by no means unopposed. A Russian horse battery retiring to the northeast was particularly pestilential, as it would halt, fire sufficient shots to compel the infantry to deploy, and then limber up and go a mile or so, only to repeat its antics. We finally arrived at Huchishu just about dark. Rather a lively artillery duel was taking place at this time, but was soon stopped by darkness.

On the morning of the 4th a sharp fight occurred just to the north of Weichiapu. After this we advanced again, though the stiffer Russian resistance rendered our advance slow. At nightfall we had reached Hsiaoyusupu [headquarters remained here until the morning of 9 March]. We were now in contact with the main Russian

position near Mukden, and during the succeeding days the fighting was very fierce.

On March 5 we all got out of the Chinese house where we lodged rather early because of sounds of very heavy firing. We found that we were just behind some Japanese mountain batteries which were engaged with some Russian field guns. The latter, on account of their longer range, rendered our position an uncomfortable one. In fact, except for a brief period at noon when we managed to get on the roof for a short time, we had to take shelter all day behind a wall. The hard frozen walls about all the Chinese compounds afforded excellent shelter from everything except explosive shells.

Towards night the Russian artillery fire slackened a little and I managed to visit a Japanese dressing station near where we were. This was badly exposed to the enemy's fire and its personnel suffered a number of casualties. You know, of course, that in actual battle at the front the Geneva Cross offers just about as much protection as would a parasol.

Our headquarters remained in the same place through the night of the 8th. On the morning of March 6 we determined not to be penned up as badly as we had been the day before, and before it was light we made our way to the rear, finally reaching a hill which was the best point for observation anywhere near. Its advantage was appreciated by army headquarters, and General Oku spent most of his days here until the end of the battle.

You should know that there is no personal leadership by the higher commanders in the Japanese army. They sit back, preferably where they are not greatly exposed to fire, and so are not affected by the sights of the battlefield, leaving their division commanders to take more direct charge of operations. General Oku has been called the man of iron. The story is told of him at Nanshan when the division commanders, who were near enough to see the terrible losses which their troops were sustaining, reported again and again that their casualties were so heavy that it was improbable that the hill could be taken; he invariably replied that the hill must be taken, which was finally done.

On the 6th we saw a fierce infantry attack by the 8th Division, though an unsuccessful one. This was typical of such attacks so I will devote a few words to its description. First, the fire of all the Japanese guns available was concentrated on the position to be attacked. This was of course for the purpose of shaking the enemy and to make the Russian soldiers keep under shelter, thus preventing them from firing on the infantry—or, if they did fire, pointing their rifles too high on account of unwillingness to expose themselves. Then the infantry deployed, leaving their shelter. Meanwhile the Japanese artillery continued to fire over their heads. The Japanese infantry, of course, was extended rather widely, but the order was

not as open as that we have seen recommended on account of the British experience in South Africa. This would be a bad formation against as obstinate an enemy as the Russians, for with it not enough men would be available at one point to make the final assault.

The Japanese infantry advanced by rushes, stopping now and again to lie down to fire and to get a breath. On this occasion the Japanese troops advanced a considerable distance, but the Russian fire was too heavy for them, and they hesitated, stopped, and falling back began to form little bunches. The soldiers did not give up all the ground they had gained, however, but intrenched themselves where they were with burlap bags.⁴ The ground was entirely too hard to dig intrenchments.

As soon as darkness permitted we stole back to our village. The night fighting was quite as severe as that by day, but it was not of much value to the observer.

On the 7th we were again on the headquarters hill at an early hour, and this day we witnessed the greatest field fight of the war. This was at Likwanpu, on our left, a salient of the Japanese position, where the Third Japanese division was attacked by three Russian divisions.⁵ Some high ground intervened between our hill and the village, which prevented us from seeing the fight itself very well, but we could see hordes of Russian soldiers going back into Mukden.

All of this time great streams of wounded were flowing in from the Japanese front. The field hospitals were especially busy places at night, when the many wounded who could not reach them by day came or were brought in. It was rather surprising to see how little professional work was done in the medical department organizations at the front; all wounded were hurried to the rear after their first needs had been attended to in order to provide room for new wounded.

Early on the morning of the 8th some Russian batteries gave some wounded Japanese a very lively dance just in front of headquarters hill. Fortunately, as with much shrapnel firing at rather long range, no casualties resulted. Some of the foreigners thought that the Russians intentionally fired on these wounded, but personally I hardly believe that to have been the case. We called certain Russian batteries the "mad batteries" on account of their apparent lack of objective—shooting here, there, and everywhere.

On the afternoon of the 8th we foreigners received a message to return to division headquarters, which we did. Just at this time our village seemed to bear the particular grudge of the Russian artillery, and the further side of a thick wall was decidedly the happiest place for the observer. The thorough system of the Japanese seemed a little ridiculous for once, since just at this time our mail was distributed in the usual manner. There seemed to be nothing else to do so we squatted in the

shelter of the nearest wall and read our letters.

Hardly had we done so when we received an order to proceed to another place to rejoin divisional headquarters. It was evident from the character of the order that some mistake had been made, so we were compelled to go back to the headquarters hill, where we learned that we were to occupy our old quarters for the night. It was almost dark when this was settled, and we remained for a time to watch the brilliant spectacle. In front of us was Nienquantum [Ning-kuan-tun], which sheltered a Japanese brigade of our division, on which some Russian batteries were firing explosive shell, almost every one of which was marked by a fire. Behind us the sun was setting with the greatest splendor, the vast plain lying absolutely quiet under its rays.

The 9th was not a good day for the observer on account of a severe dust storm. We foreigners rejoined army headquarters, as the 8th Division was ordered to the assistance of the Third Army. On the 10th the Russians had retired from our front, and it was only possible to view the positions they had occupied, and for me personally to find out how the evacuation of the wounded was proceeding. On the 11th we entered Mukden and the battle was over as far as we were concerned.⁶

FOOTNOTES

1. Lawson, Lady Kate, *Highways & Homes of Japan*, p. 287: "In war-time the Japanese government controls the telegraph lines and the mails, and the newspapers are under the surveillance of a censor. But certain official reports are issued daily to the public from the war and navy offices, and in an incredibly short time their contents are known in every village in the interior that is reached by telegraph wires; while in the cities and towns, the newspapers issue extras, which are given free of charge to all subscribers. At every newspaper office throughout the empire, relays of news-boys (*gogaiya*) remain on duty night and day awaiting these extra editions; and the moment the slips containing special war news leave the press they seize them and hurry off to their different routes with jingling bells tied to their waist-belts, so that everybody may know that something has happened, for the police prohibit shouting in the streets. The importance of the news is emphasised by the number of bells, from one to six, fastened to the girdles, six bells denoting that news of supreme importance has been received..."

2. Joseph E. Kuhn, Army Corps of Engineers, was already in Port Arthur; in her later slide lectures in the United States Dr. McGee used photos he took during her visit.

3. Dr. McGee was assigned to the Eighth Division, which was part of the Second Japanese Army under the leadership of General Oku. After taking Changtan, the Eighth Division moved up the north bank of the river Hun in the direction of Likwanpu, where they would link up with the Third Japanese Army under

General Nogi and thus encircle Mukden. The flanking movement was successful, and by 7 March the armies of Generals Oku and Nogi formed one continuous line to the west of Mukden. On that night the Russian commander in Mukden ordered his army to leave Mukden and retreat towards the north.

4. Japanese infantrymen carried burlap bags into battle, which they could fill with earth and place in front of them as a defense against bullets when there were no protective trenches.

5. This battle was one of the decisive events of the campaign. The Russians attempted to break through the Japanese lines for the last time and failed.

6. The Japanese occupied Mukden at 10 A.M. on 10 March; there was scattered fighting on that date and resistance ended on 11 March.



81. Wounded Japanese soldier attended by Japanese and American Red Cross nurses.

Chronology

DR. ANITA NEWCOMB MCGEE,
A CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF HER MISSION TO SERVE THE JAPANESE WAR EFFORT

1903

October

29 Dr. McGee writes to the Japanese Minister in Washington, D.C., offering services of trained nurses from the Association of Spanish-American War Nurses, in the event of war.

31 Response from Minister Takahira; he appreciates the offer, there are rumors of war but Japan seeks peace.

December

1 Lloyd Griscom, American Minister in Tokyo, receives a copy of Dr. McGee's letter to Minister Takahira, along with pamphlets describing the work of her Association; he apparently also gets a copy of Takahira's reply.

16 Griscom writes to McGee, saying that army nursing in wartime Japan would be supervised by the Red Cross Society of Japan. He is aware of her contribution to American army nursing, and would recommend her services in the event of war.

26 The English-language *Japan Weekly Mail* of Yokohama reports that Japanese newspapers describe Dr. McGee's offer to the Japanese government. It is not clear how they obtained this information.

1904

February

10 Japan declares war.

15 Baron Komura officially invites Dr. McGee to Japan with nine of her colleagues.

March

16 Dr. McGee departs Washington, DC for San Francisco.

24 Reception given for McGee by Mr. and Mrs. Okuda in Seattle, Washington.

April

1 McGee group departs from Tacoma, WA for Japan; arrives at Yokohama on the evening of 21 April (several days late).

22 McGee group disembarks to large receptions and sight-seeing.

23 McGee group departs Yokohama on 9:10 A.M. train for Tokyo; welcomed at Shimbashi Station by Red Cross Society officials.

27 Major reception at Arsenal Gardens, Koishikawa; hosted by Dr. Takagi.

May

4 Red Cross Society of Japan petitions War Department to send McGee and her team to Matsuyama, where Russian prisoners are hospitalized (a large group is expected as a result of the Japanese victory at the Yalu River).

7 Luncheon reception at Ueno Seiyoken, hosted by Count Matsukata, President of Red Cross Society of Japan. (Mrs. Richardson also attends).

10 Visit to Peeress' School to observe sports and training of girls to roll bandages and attend ambulances. (Also attended by Baroness D'Anethan and Ethel McCaul)

23 Reception at Hospital of Red Cross Society of Japan, Shibuya, for the Empress. (Also attended by Mrs. Richardson).

25 McGee group leaves Tokyo at 6 A.M. from Shimbashi Station, *en route* to Hiroshima.

26 Reception at Gifu City Railroad Station, 1 A.M., hosted by local Red Cross Society.

Arrival at Kyoto at 6 A.M.; sightseeing and hospital visits.

27 Group departs for Kobe by train, changing to Sanyo Line for Hiroshima train.

28 Reception at Himeji Railroad Station by military garrison at 3 A.M.; group arrives Hiroshima at 7 A.M., settles into house in Otemachi district.

(Ethel McCaul departs Hiroshima on the *Hakuai Maru* to observe Korean battlefields; she visits Antung and Wiju, goes to Kuroki's headquarters at Fengswangcheng, and returns to Hiroshima on 19 June. She leaves for Tokyo on 22 June without mentioning any contact with Dr. McGee).

June

9 McGee's group has a tour of the hospital ship *Hakuai Maru*, just back from Korea, hosted by Dr. Iwai and the ship's naval officers.

July

11 Departure for Manchuria on the *Hakuai Maru* of Miss Russell, one of McGee's nurses, as the first of the team to go to the Front.

24 Two more of McGee's nurses leave on the *Hakuai Maru* for the battlefield area.

29 Dr. McGee goes to Korea on the *Kosai Maru*.

August

2 Dr. McGee lands at Yongampo, Korea.

4 Dr. McGee visits Antung, Manchuria; takes up temporary residence at a temple.

6 Dr. McGee visits Wiju, Korea.

12 Dr. McGee embarks for Hiroshima on the *Kobe Maru* with a boatload of wounded Japanese soldiers and some Russian prisoners.

15 Dr. McGee back at Ujina after short three-day passage.

September

Hiroshima hospitals receive large influx of wounded soldiers from the battlefields at Port Arthur and Liaoyang. Herbert Ponting spends 2½ weeks in Hiroshima documenting this activity.

October

10 Reception for McGee group in Hiroshima, hosted by Dr. Takagi.

11 Dr. McGee and the nine American nurses serving under her supervision receive decorations from the Emperor Meiji.

16 Reception for McGee group in Hiroshima, hosted by the Red Cross Society of Japan; attended also by Marchioness Oyama of the Ladies Patriotic Association in Tokyo.

18 McGee group departs from Hiroshima to Shimonoseki, visits teahouse where the 1895 Treaty that ended the Sino-Japan War was signed.

19 McGee group travels to Nagasaki.

21 McGee group departs for San Francisco on US army troop transport *Thomas*.

November

5 McGee group arrives in San Francisco on *Thomas*.
19 Dr. McGee departs San Francisco for Tokyo on the *S.S. Manchuria* to take up her new assignment as Attaché to the American Legation in Tokyo, along with her colleague Captain Dr. Charles Lynch.

December

7 Dr. McGee and Dr. Lynch land in Yokohama and proceed at once to Tokyo.
9 Dr. McGee reports to the American Minister, who must officially ask permission for her to proceed to Manchuria.
26 Dr. McGee receives clearance from the Japanese War Department. She is assigned to General Oku's 2nd Army, which has already gone into winter quarters along the Shaho River.

1905

January

Dr. McGee visits the Military Hospital in Shibuya, the convalescent camp at Atami, the Military Hospitals at Hiroshima, and the Russian Prisoner-of-War hospital in Matsuyama.

February

2 Dr. McGee and Dr. Lynch depart Ujina for Dalny, Manchuria aboard a Japanese hospital ship, the *Rohilla Maru*.
7 Dr. McGee and Dr. Lynch disembark at Dalny and spend the next two days visiting hospitals in that city.
10 Dr. McGee and Dr. Lynch visit Port Arthur.
11 Dr. McGee departs Port Arthur for 2nd Army Headquarters at Shi-Li-Ho.

March

2 Dr. McGee is an eyewitness to the start of the Battle of Mukden.
11 Dr. McGee enters Mukden, one day after the battle has officially ended.

May

10 Dr. McGee moves north to Tiehling, going from there to a small Chinese village where all attachés remain until the war ends in September.

September

12 Dr. McGee and fellow attachés depart Manchuria for Japan.



Chronology

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

1904

February:

- 8 Japanese troops land at Chemulpo, Korea
- Japanese Navy (under Admiral Togo) commences attack at Port Arthur, Manchuria
- 9 Naval battle off Port Arthur Naval battle off Chemulpo—*Variag* and *Korietz* destroyed
- 10 Japan declares war
- 18 Russia declares war against Japan
- 23 Japan and Korea sign agreement placing Korea under protection of Japan
- 24 Japanese Navy attempts to seal Port Arthur harbor by sinking ships
- 28 Japanese Army advances across Korea to occupy Pyongyang

March:

- 6 Japanese Navy under Admiral Kamimura bombards Vladivostok
- 8 Admiral Makarov arrives at Port Arthur
- 27 Japanese Navy again attempts to seal Port Arthur harbor; Commander Hirose killed
- 28 Land battle (first of the war) at Chongju, Korea

April:

- 4 Advance guard of Japanese First Army (General Kuroki) occupies Wiju on the south bank of the Yalu River
- 12 Japanese Navy lays mines in waters outside Port Arthur
- 13 Russian flagship *Petrapavlovsk* sunk by Japanese mine; Admiral Makarov killed
- 25 Vladivostok naval squadron sinks Japanese merchant steamer *Goyo Maru* at Gensan, off Korean coast
- 26 Japanese transport *Kinshiu Maru* sunk by Russian torpedo boats
- 30 Japanese First Army builds bridge across Yalu River

May:

- 1 Japanese First Army crosses Yalu River Capture of (Chiu-lien-cheng)
- 4 Japanese Second Army (General Oku) departs for Manchuria from Chinampo, Korea
- 6 Japanese First Army occupies Fengwangcheng, Manchuria
- 15 Japanese Second Army advances toward Kinchau
- 19 Japanese Third and Fourth armies land at Takushan, Manchuria
- 26 Japanese Second Army occupies Kinchau and captures Nanshan
- 30 Japanese Second Army occupies Dalny, unopposed

June:

- 6 General Nogi arrives in Manchuria to take command of Japanese Third Army, with objective of capturing Port Arthur
- 7 Japanese First Army begins advance towards Liaoyang over mountain passes
- 14 Japanese Second Army defeats Russians at Telissu, starts to advance north toward Liaoyang
- 27 Japanese Fourth Army occupies important mountain pass at Fenshui, advances toward Liaoyang
- 30 Japanese First Army occupies important mountain pass at Motien
- Japanese Third Army (General Nogi) advances overland toward Port Arthur

July:

4 Russian Army makes first attempt to recapture Motien Pass
Severe land fighting on outskirts of Port Arthur
6 Generals Oyama and Kodama depart from Tokyo with great ceremony,
to take command of the Japanese armies converging on Liaoyang
9 Japanese Second Army (General Oku) occupies Kaiping
24 Japanese Second Army defeats Russians at Tashihchiao and
occupies the town on following day
25 Japanese advance guard occupies Yingkou (Port of Newchwang)
30/31 Japanese First and Fourth armies advance in Manchurian
mountains and capture various positions around Towan
31 Japanese Third Army commences investment of Port Arthur,
having encircled by land

August:

1 Japanese Second Army (General Oku) moves north from Tashihchiao
3 Japanese Second Army occupies Haichang and then Newchwang Old Town
8 Land and sea attacks on Port Arthur lead to capture of Takushan and Shakushan
10 Battle of the Yellow Sea: Russian fleet in Port Arthur unsuccessfully attempts to
escape to Vladivostok; many ships forced back to Port Arthur, others escape to
neutral ports of Shanghai, Chefoo, and Tsingtau Russian Admiral Witgeft
killed in action on board *Tsarevitch*
14 Japanese fleet (Admiral Kamimura) defeats Russian
Vladivostok fleet north of Tsushima, Sea of Japan
22 Japanese Third Army occupies East and West Panlung forts on outskirts of Port Arthur
23 Japanese First Army (General Kuroki) advances toward Anping,
the first move towards Liaoyang
25 Under General Oyama, entire Japanese Army advances towards Liaoyang
27 Japanese First Army occupies Anping; Second Army occupies Anshanchan
28 Russian Army pushed back into Liaoyang
30 Start of Battle of Liaoyang; assault on Shushan Hill,
overlooking walled city of Liaoyang

September:

1-3 Battle of Liaoyang continues; Japanese Army occupies Shushan Hill
3 Russian General Kuropatkin orders retreat from Liaoyang
4 Japanese Army occupies Liaoyang at 3 A.M.
Japanese First Army pursues retreating Russian Army to the north
6 Japanese First Army occupies Yentai Coal Mines
10 Russian Army completes 40-mile retreat from Liaoyang to Mukden
20 Japanese Third Army makes first attempt to capture 203 Metre Hill
25 Russia opens circum-Baikal line (around Lake Baikal),
removing impediment to Trans-Siberia Railroad

October:

2 General Kuropatkin orders Russian Army to prepare to move from
Mukden in a general attack along the Shaho River
10 Battle of Shaho River; severe fighting along a wide front
14 Russian Army in full retreat to north bank of Shaho River
20 Both armies dig trenches on each side of Shaho River to settle in for winter

November:

- 3 Birthday of Emperor Meiji
- Assault on Port Arthur, started October 26 with hope of giving the Emperor a great victory on his birthday, is unsuccessful
- Huge loss of life on Japanese side from siege of Port Arthur
- 27 Japanese Third Army commences attack on 203 Metre Hill

December:

- 5 Japanese complete capture of 203 Metre Hill by afternoon, now have excellent view of Port Arthur harbor and Russian fleet
- 18 Japanese Third Army captures North Fort at Port Arthur
- 28 Japanese Third Army captures Ehlung Fort at Port Arthur
- 31 Japanese Third Army captures Sungshu Fort at Port Arthur

1905

January:

- 1 General Stoessel proposes surrender of Port Arthur
Accepted by General Nogi
- 2 Agreement of Surrender signed by representatives of Japan and Russia, at a Chinese house at the village of Sueishi
- 5 Generals Stoessel and Nogi meet at house in Sueishi
- 6 Japanese assume command of more than 15,000 sick and wounded Russians and more than 25,000 able-bodied officers and soldiers; latter start march to captivity
- 12 General Mishcenko launches unsuccessful raid on Japanese at Newchwang
- 14 General Nogi holds funeral service for Japanese dead at Port Arthur at special shrine to memorialize them
- 22 At St. Petersburg, general strike and riots; Russian troops fire on crowds
- 25 Russian Army under General Grippenberg advances toward Manchurian villages of Heikoutai and Sandepu
- 28 Failure of Russian attack at Heikoutai and Sandepu

February:

- 23 Japanese Fifth Army (General Kawamura) begins advance toward Mukden
- 24 Japanese First Army (General Kuroki) advances toward Mukden
- 27 Japanese Third Army (General Nogi) advances north to encircle Mukden
Fourth Army (General Nodzu) starts three days of bombardment of Russian positions
- 28 Japanese Second Army (General Oku) advances toward Mukden

March:

- 2 Battle of Mukden is fully engaged
- 7 Russian General Kuropatkin orders retreat at evening
- 8 Russian Army begins retreat
- 10 Japanese Army occupies Mukden
- 16 Japanese occupy Tiehling
- 21 Japanese Army occupies important railway town of Changtu as they continue northward movement along Manchurian railway
- 25 Russian Army establishes a line of defense at Hsipingkai, 10 days' march north of Tiehling

April:

4 Japanese Army advances 20 miles north of Changtu
24 Japanese Army successfully defends Changtu from Russian counter attack

May:

27 Naval Battle of the Sea of Japan (Battle of Tsushima) starts at 2 P.M.,
engaging the Japanese fleet under Admiral Togo with the Russian Baltic
fleet under Admiral Rozhdestvensky
28 Russian Baltic Fleet destroyed, Russian Admirals and 8,000 sailors captured

June:

8 President Theodore Roosevelt of United States sends dispatches
to Japanese and Russian governments urging negotiation
10 Japan accepts the Roosevelt proposal
14 Russia agrees to meeting of plenipotentiaries

July:

2 Japan names Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira as official representatives
at Peace Conference; Russia names Baron Rosen and Mr. Muravieff
3 Japan announces new International Loan to cover war expenses;
funds committed by 12 July
7 Japanese naval squadron appears off coast of Sakhalin
27 Japanese occupation of Luikoff, Sakhalin
31 Japanese complete occupation of Sakhalin

August:

8 Japanese and Russian delegates arrive at Portsmouth, New Hampshire
9 First session of Peace Conference opens
29 Conference ends with complete accord after Japan waives right to indemnity

September:

5 Signing of Treaty of Portsmouth, officially ending the war



*The Russian Debacle, George Soper, Artist, circa 1905.
Drawn for Black & White Magazine. (Collection of
Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf)*



Yokohama

ARRIVAL CEREMONIES

Newspaper reports of the offer of assistance from Dr. McGee and her group of specially trained nurses had appeared in Japan at the end of the previous year, and their arrival was anticipated with great excitement. They were expected to arrive in Yokohama on 19 April 1904, but were delayed by bad weather and did not disembark there until 22 April.

When Dr. McGee and the nurses went ashore before 9 A.M., more than 2000 people, including a large number of school children, had gathered on the docks in their honor. In addition, a group of officials from the Red Cross Society of Japan had come from Tokyo to greet them. The photographs in the exhibit show the group of Americans and officials walking through the crowded streets to the Union Church for a welcoming ceremony. They then proceeded on foot down the Bund to the Grand Hotel and spent the balance of the morning in meeting with delegations from various Japanese societies and correspondents from numerous Japanese newspapers.

After lunch they toured the city and visited a public school. They then went to a reception at the American Naval Hospital on the Bluff. In the evening there was a dinner party at the Grand Hotel, hosted by the Kanagawa Branch of the Red Cross Society of Japan.

On the following morning, 23 April, another large crowd assembled at the Yokohama railroad station to watch the departure of the nurses on the 9:10 A.M. train to Tokyo.



3. STEAMSHIP SHAWMUT IN YOKOHAMA HARBOR, 22 APRIL 1904

Dr. McGee noted that the photo was taken at 8:30 A.M.



8. ARRIVAL OF DR. MCGEE IN YOKOHAMA, 22 APRIL 1904

Dr. McGee and party are escorted through the streets of Yokohama. The procession is led by the chief of police; Dr. McGee is accompanied by the Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, Mr. K. Suwa.



5. CROWD AT YOKOHAMA WATERFRONT, 22 APRIL 1904

Crowd gathered to welcome Dr. McGee, about 9:30 A.M.. The women in black uniforms belong to the Ladies Volunteer Nursing Association of the Red Cross Society of Japan.



6. PROCESSION TO THE UNION CHURCH, 22 APRIL 1904

Dr. McGee and Dr. Takagi lead the procession from the docks to the Union Church on the Bund, Yokohama.



2. RECEPTION AT GRAND HOTEL, 22 APRIL 1904

Dr. McGee and nine nurses pose with the Yokohama Welcoming Committee.



10. DR. MCGEE AND MRS. WOOD, 22 APRIL 1904

Dr. McGee and the wife of Colonel Wood, military attaché to the American Legation in Tokyo, leave the Grand Hotel on rickshaws for a tour of Yokohama.

Tokyo

GUESTS OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF JAPAN

Dr. McGee and her party of nurses reached Shinbashi station in Tokyo shortly after 10 A.M. on 23 April. Traveling with them were various members of the Red Cross Society of Japan who had been part of the Yokohama welcoming ceremonies, including the famous former surgeon general, Dr. Kenkwan Takagi.¹

Again, a large and enthusiastic crowd was waiting to greet them. "The station and neighborhood were crowded by thousands of people who had assembled to welcome the eminent American lady and her companions."² They were greeted by the United States Minister to Japan, Lloyd C. Griscom, and his wife; the mayor of Tokyo; and many important ladies of the Japanese aristocracy.

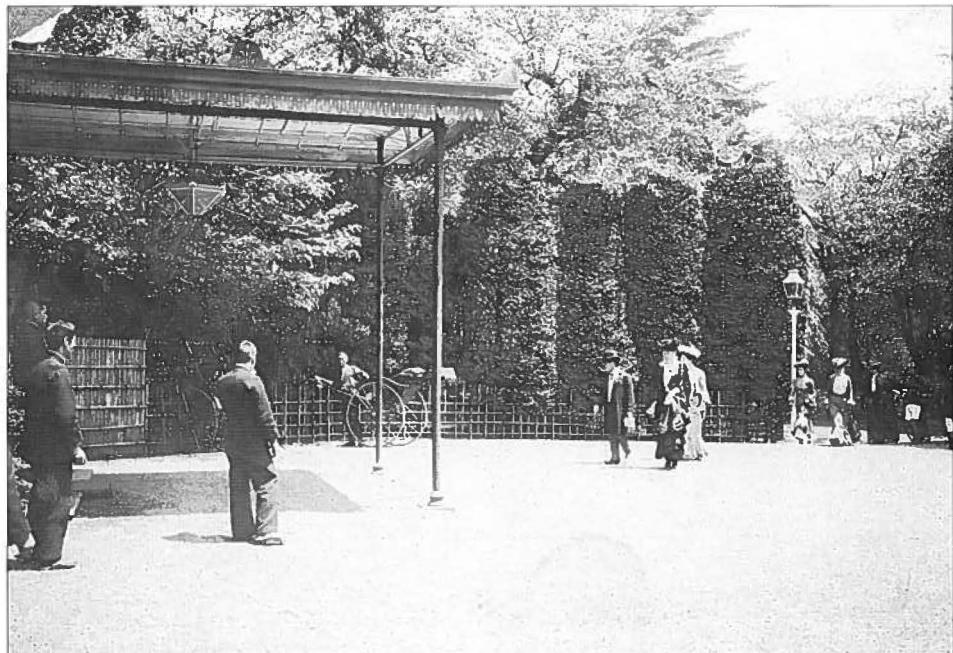
The group spent the next four and a half weeks in Tokyo being entertained and enlightened (see chronology of Dr. McGee's travels).

The most important business at hand was obtaining the necessary papers from the Ministry of War to proceed onwards for service at a military hospital. Initially the Red Cross Society of Japan wanted to send the nurses to the Russian prisoner-of-war camps at Matsuyama; however the assignment was changed to the army hospitals at Hiroshima, where the group would be right at the heart of Japanese military medicine.

They left Tokyo on 25 May, after attending a reception for the Empress on 23 May at the hospital of the Red Cross Society in Shibuya.

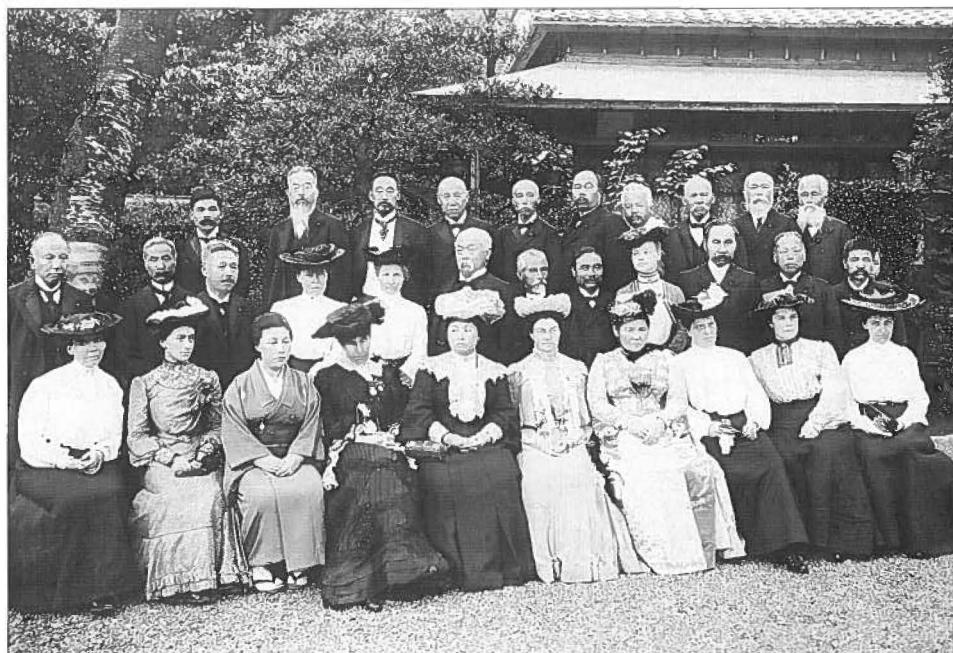
1. Baron Takagi had studied medicine in England, worked in Naval Surgery department; after his retirement he organized the Tokyo Charity Hospital, and later the Tokyo Hospital. His name was also spelled "Takaki" by himself and others; see "Who's Who in Japan" section of *The Japan Year Book* (Japan Year Book Office, Tokyo: 1906).

2. Kinkodo Publishing Company, *The Russo-Japanese War Fully Illustrated*. Tokyo, Japan: 1904. Volume 2, 277.



11. ARRIVING FOR LUNCHEON AT UENO SEIYOKEN, 7 MAY 1904

Dr. McGee and her party arrive for a luncheon hosted by Count Matsukata, president of the Red Cross Society of Japan.



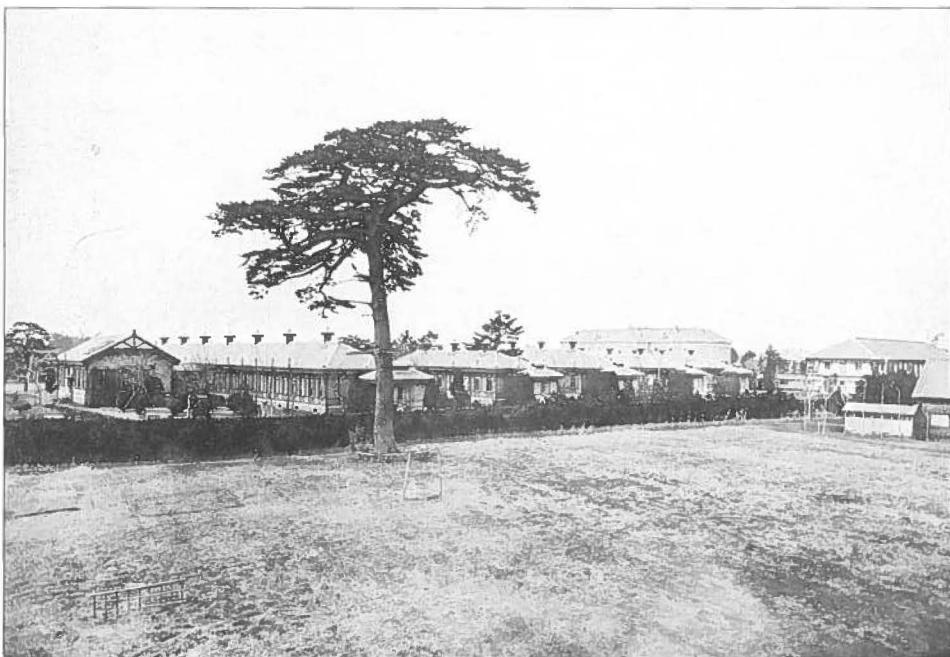
12. GROUP OF LUNCHEON GUESTS, 7 MAY 1904

Formal portrait of those who attended the banquet at Ueno Seiyoken.



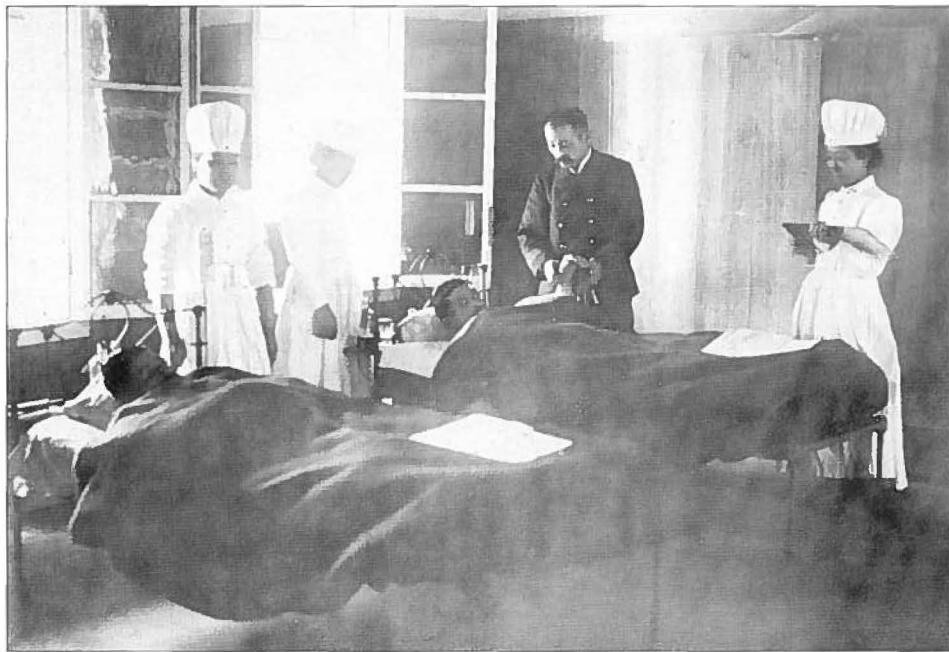
39. MAIN HOSPITAL OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF JAPAN, TOKYO: FRONT VIEW

This handsome building was completed in 1891 and was located in the Shibuya section of Tokyo. Attached to the hospital was a nurse's training school. When war broke out this hospital was entirely turned over to the military, and became a military reserve hospital.



41. MAIN HOSPITAL OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF JAPAN, TOKYO: REAR VIEW

The wards which lie behind the main building are seen in this view, as well as the large tract of empty land on which temporary wards were erected as casualties mounted.



53. MAIN HOSPITAL OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF JAPAN: INTERIOR VIEW

The consulting room is depicted as a quiet, efficient and well-organized space.



56. MAIN HOSPITAL OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY OF JAPAN: INTERIOR VIEW

This view, with a ward full of wounded soldiers, was taken after the outbreak of war.



24. COUNT MASAYOSHI MATSUKATA, PRESIDENT OF RED CROSS SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

Born in Kagoshima in 1840, Count Matsukata was one of the founders of Meiji Japan. He was especially known in Japan for his work in establishing a sound financial foundation for Japan during many years of serving in a variety of ministerial positions. In 1902 he had traveled through Europe and America; in 1903 he assumed the position of president of the Red Cross Society of Japan. This portrait, taken by the important Meiji photographer Kazumasa Ogawa, shows him wearing full court dress.



30. MARCHIONESS EIKO NABESHIMA

President of the Ladies Volunteer Nursing Association and director, the Red Cross Society of Japan.



33. MARCHIONESS SUTEMATSU OYAMA

Wife of General Iwao Oyama, Chief of the General Staff of the Japanese Army during the Russo-Japanese War. She was a Director of The Ladies Patriotic Association.

26. DR. (LATER BARON) KENKWAN TAKAKI (TAKAGI)

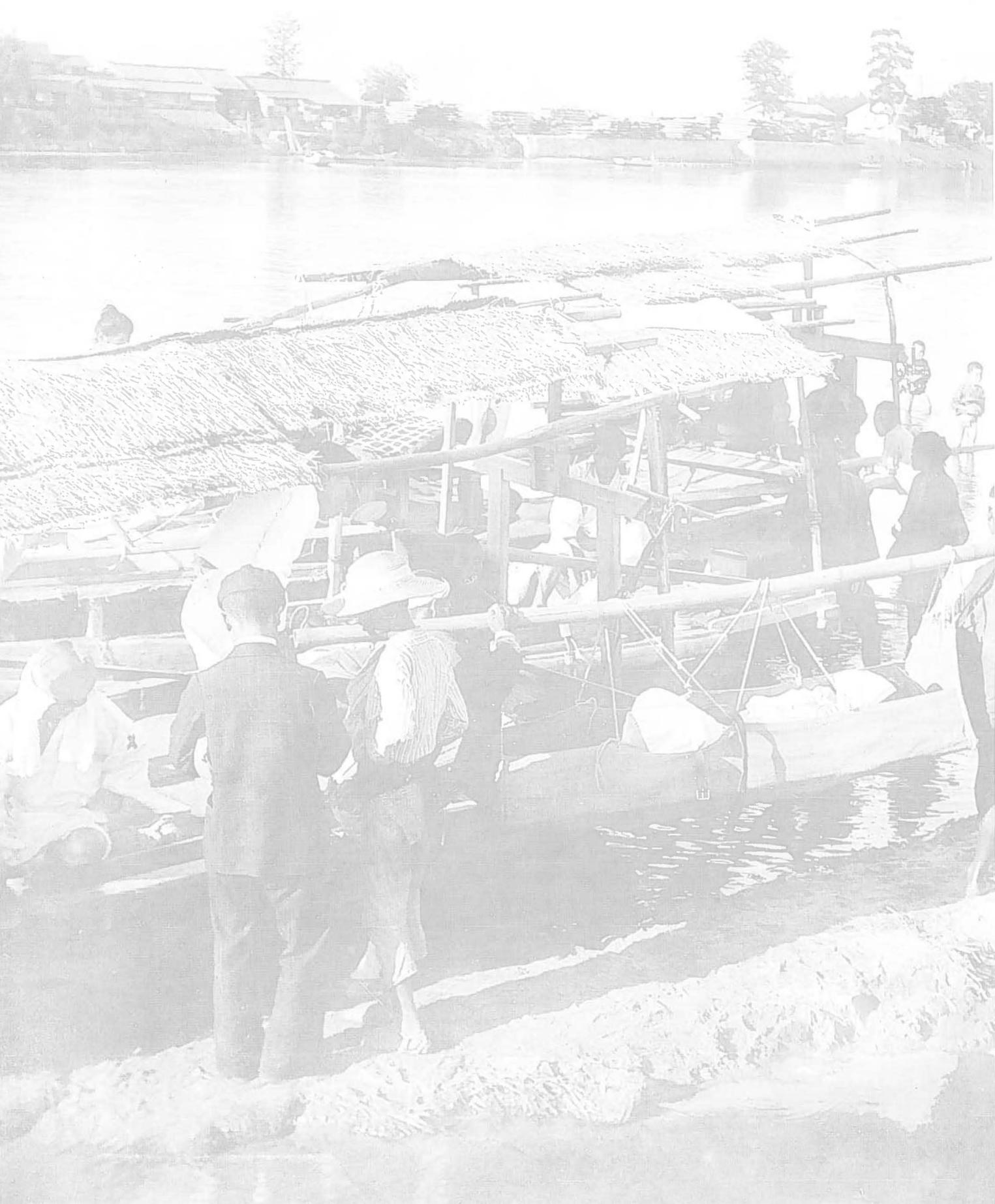
Born in Satsuma in 1849, Dr. Takaki studied medicine in England before joining the medical branch of the Japanese Navy. He instituted dietary reforms within the Navy which substantially improved the health of the sailors. He was then named Surgeon General of Japan. In 1892 he was made a member of the House of Peers. He was created a Baron in 1905.



125. MISS SUWO, CHIEF NURSE ON HAKUAI MARU

Miss Suwo is shown in her outdoor uniform, wearing her war medals and decorations. She spoke excellent English, and often acted as hostess for English and American visitors.





Hiroshima in Wartime

THE HIROSHIMA RESERVE HOSPITAL

Hiroshima was the most important city on the Japanese mainland west of Kobe. It had many cultural attractions, including picturesque gardens and temples; but it was also the location of an extensive military establishment. Ujina, the nearby seaport, had become the main port of embarkation for all Japanese troops during the Russo-Japan war; and the Hiroshima Army Hospital was the principal medical facility for soldiers wounded in Korea and Manchuria.

The reserve hospital at Hiroshima consisted of many buildings clustered in a number of locations throughout the city. The "main" hospital, where the American nurses served, was for men who were seriously wounded or who required surgery. There were also as many as seven "division" hospitals that had been constructed on vacant land and Buddhist temple grounds on the outskirts of the city. The total capacity of these various facilities was approximately 12,000 soldiers. Most wards were single-story wooden buildings capable of holding between 70 and 100 men. In July 1904 Dr. Seaman wrote, "It was at Hiroshima, the great base hospital of the army of Japan, that one first came face to face with the grim results of the war....The presence of nearly 8000 wounded made the visitor feel as if he was almost in touch with the firing line."¹

Land access to Hiroshima was primarily by rail. The Tokaido Railway ran from Tokyo to Kobe, connecting with the Sanyo Railway to Hiroshima (189 miles) and onwards to its terminus at Shimonoseki (140 miles further). Connection to the seaport of Ujina (3 1/2 miles from central Hiroshima) was by light rail or by rickshaw; troops made the trip on the Otagawa River in sampans.

Dr. McGee's group had proper military credentials; thus they had access to the army hospitals, to the army training grounds, and to the various hospital ships coming and going between Korea, Manchuria, and Hiroshima. In striking contrast was the experience of the British correspondent Fred Whiting, who in April 1904 wanted to see the army leaving for Manchuria and traveled to Shimonoseki, but,

Hearing the majority of the transports were at Ujina, we took the train back to Hiroshima, whence we took a jinrikshaw to Ujina...an extremely beautiful spot, entirely Japanese, snugly sheltered under wooded and fortified hills. The harbour is crowded with transports, and the quay is loaded with all kinds of military stores. Large temporary barracks are here to afford accommodation to the troops which are constantly arriving. At Ujina, for the first time since I landed in Japan, I have seen many troops. This probably shows that very many more men have been landed at the seat of war than we imagine.

....There is absolutely no chance of gaining any information in this country unless the Japanese intend that it shall be known. Even such a simple thing as sketching troops leaving on the transports is out of the question. Our own officers are not allowed to be present at an embarkation, and the transport which conveyed the first batch of correspondents to Korea contained only a few officers and no troops. Although from an artist-correspondent's point of view my journey was unfruitful, it was very instructive in showing how wonderfully everything is being pushed forward with the greatest speed and secrecy.²

1. Louis Livingston Seaman, *From Tokio Through Manchuria with the Japanese*. (New York, Sidney Appleton: 1905), pp. 41-42.

2. In the *Daily Graphic*, printed 3 June 1904.



58. GROUP AT HIROSHIMA RESERVE HOSPITAL: JULY 1904

American and Japanese nurses at Hiroshima Reserve Hospital. Dr. McGee, in center, is set apart by not wearing a nurse's hat.



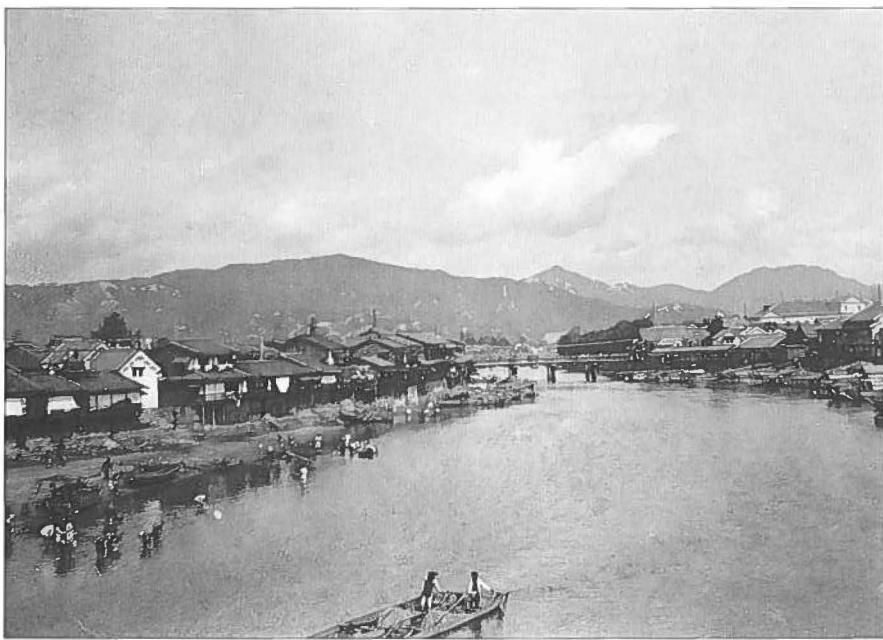
57. GROUP IN GARDEN AT HIROSHIMA HOSPITAL

Portrait of Dr. McGee and her American nurses with a delegation from the Red Cross Society of Japan. The lady with medals seated next to Dr. McGee is Miss Sato, who later accompanied Dr. McGee to Antung; this photo was probably taken early in July 1904. The photographer is Y. Hashimoto of Hiroshima.



15. DR. MCGEE'S HOUSE IN HIROSHIMA

Front of house. Note that the busy street was cleared of people for the photograph.



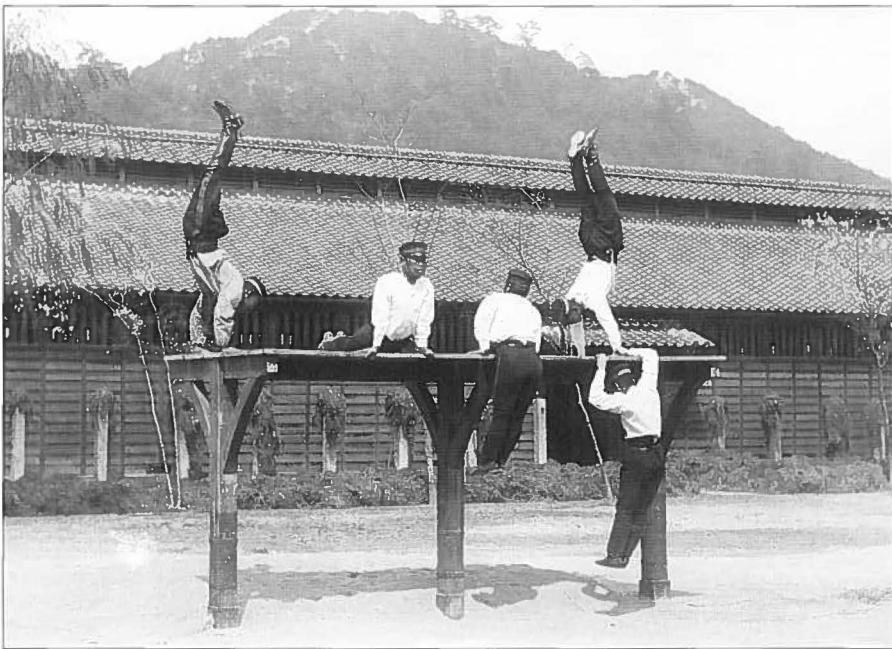
14. VIEW FROM DR. MCGEE'S HOUSE IN HIROSHIMA

Looking out from the rear of the house towards the Otagawa River. The city is located on a delta of land with mountains looming in the distance.



152. SOLDIERS EXERCISING

Dr. McGee was very impressed with the physical fitness of the Japanese soldiers. The recruits exercised at an outdoor gymnasium.



154. SOLDIERS EXERCISING

Another view of fitness training.



65. WOUNDED ARRIVING AT HIROSHIMA

Wounded soldiers were unloaded from hospital ships onto lighters and sampans in the harbor at Ujina for the trip up the Otagawa River to the hospital grounds, which were adjacent to the riverfront. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



63. WOUNDED ARRIVING AT HIROSHIMA

A wounded soldier being carried in a sling-stretcher from the waterfront to the hospital wards. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



61. WOUNDED ARRIVING AT HIROSHIMA

Bringing a wounded soldier ashore. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



64. WOUNDED ARRIVING AT HIROSHIMA

Patients were covered to protect them from the sun. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



**71. TRANSPORTING WOUNDED ON
HOSPITAL GROUNDS**

A wounded soldier being carried on a traditional stretcher. One of the American nurses stands behind. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



**66. TRANSPORTING WOUNDED ON
HOSPITAL GROUNDS**

A wounded soldier being taken to the hospital by rickshaw. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



74. WOUNDED SOLDIERS OUTSIDE OPERATING ROOM

These patients lie in the shade of a wisteria arbor as they await their turn in the operating room.
Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



92. WOUNDED SOLDIER - PRIVATE AINO SHIMPEI

Private Shimpei survived numerous wounds from bayonet thrusts while lying helpless before Port Arthur. He is shown with his nurse, Miss Newell. Japanese soldiers regarded it as an honor to be attended by one of the American nurses.
Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



87. CROWDED WARD AT HIROSHIMA HOSPITAL

The American nurses worked side by side with their Japanese colleagues in Ward Ten, which was suddenly overcrowded due to heavy casualties from the Manchurian battlefields. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



91. WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT HIROSHIMA HOSPITAL

Portrait of group of Japanese wounded taken outside their ward. Photo by Herbert Ponting.



78. AMERICAN NURSES AT WORK IN WARD

A Japanese soldier wounded before Port Arthur. With his arm broken he crawled back and fell into a ditch. The American nurse Miss Cook is assisting a Japanese nursing colleague. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



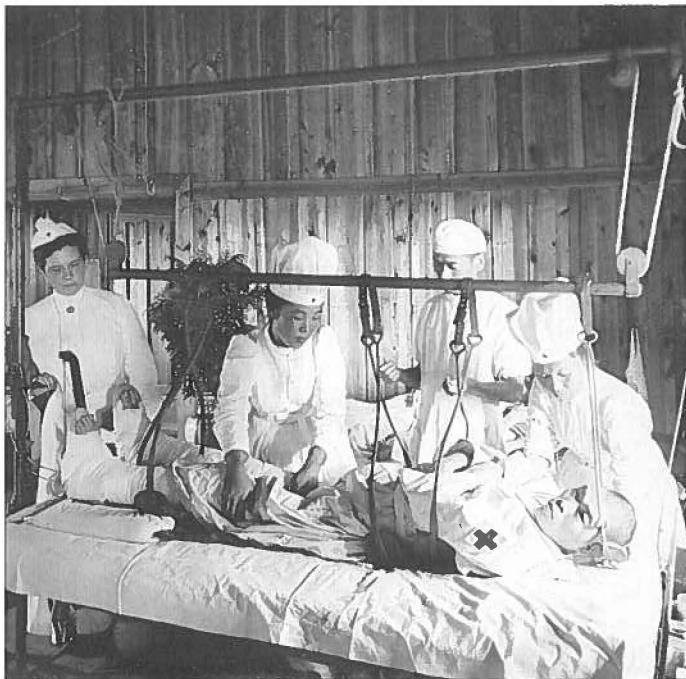
82. AMERICAN NURSES AT WORK IN WARD

Ward at the Hiroshima Hospital with one of the American nurses. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



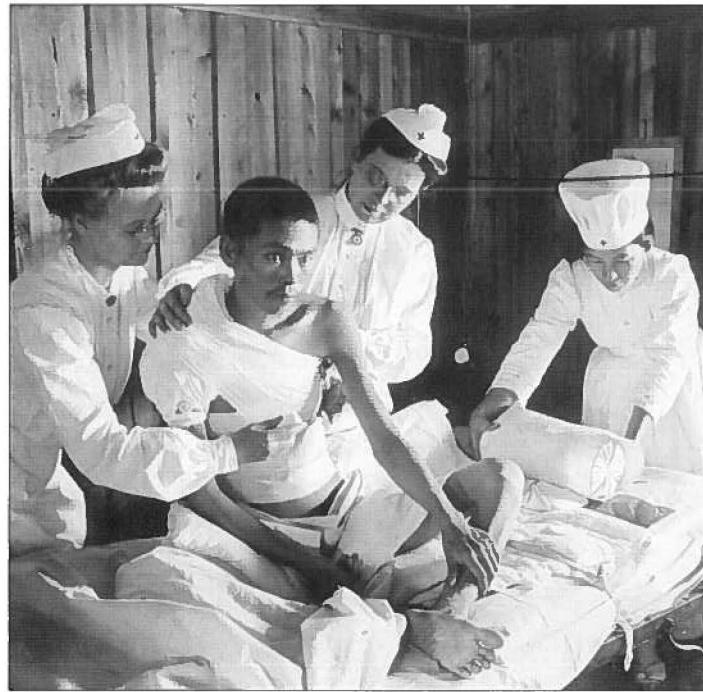
84. AMERICAN NURSES AT WORK IN WARD

An American nurse assisted by two Japanese nurses, helping to make a Japanese soldier more comfortable. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



85. AMERICAN NURSES AT WORK IN WARD

An American nurse observes a doctor and team of Japanese nurses as they move a patient into proper position. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



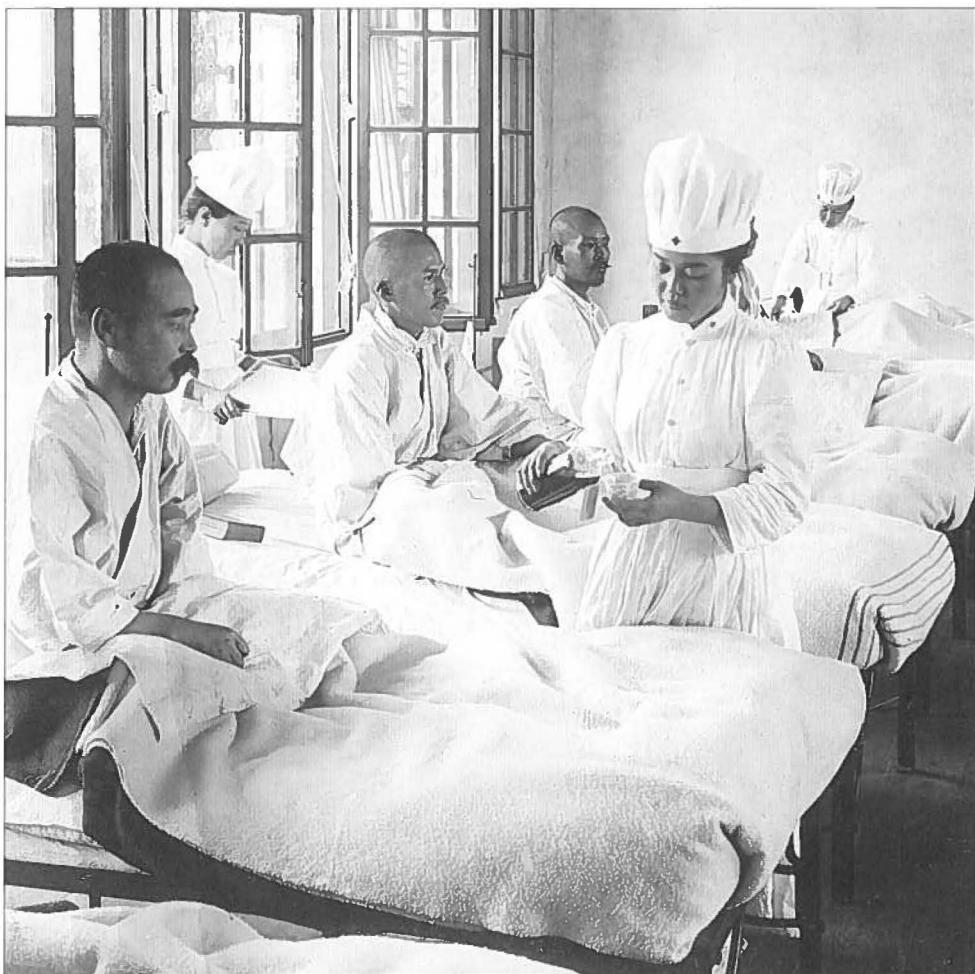
76. AMERICAN NURSES AT WORK IN WARD

Two American nurses assist a Japanese nurse with a severely wounded soldier. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



77. AMERICAN NURSES AT WORK IN WARD

Treating a wounded soldier. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



83. SOLDIERS AWAIT THEIR MEDICATION

Japanese soldiers sit cross-legged. Photo by Herbert Ponting.

As for the average Japanese soldier, he is either less sensitive or more of a stoic than the rest of humanity. On the entrance of a surgeon, if able to stand, he is instantly at "attention"—if too ill, he crosses his legs in his cot in the graceful pose of his Buddha, and remains in that attitude until the visit is over. I have seen many a long ward full of these victims of Russian shot and shell, sitting like rows of Buddhist statues, with the same immobile look of quiet restfulness—peaceful contentment—that characterizes their great philosopher...

(from speech by Dr. Louis Livingston Seaman to conference of the Association of Military Surgeons, 12 October 1904, St. Louis, Missouri.)



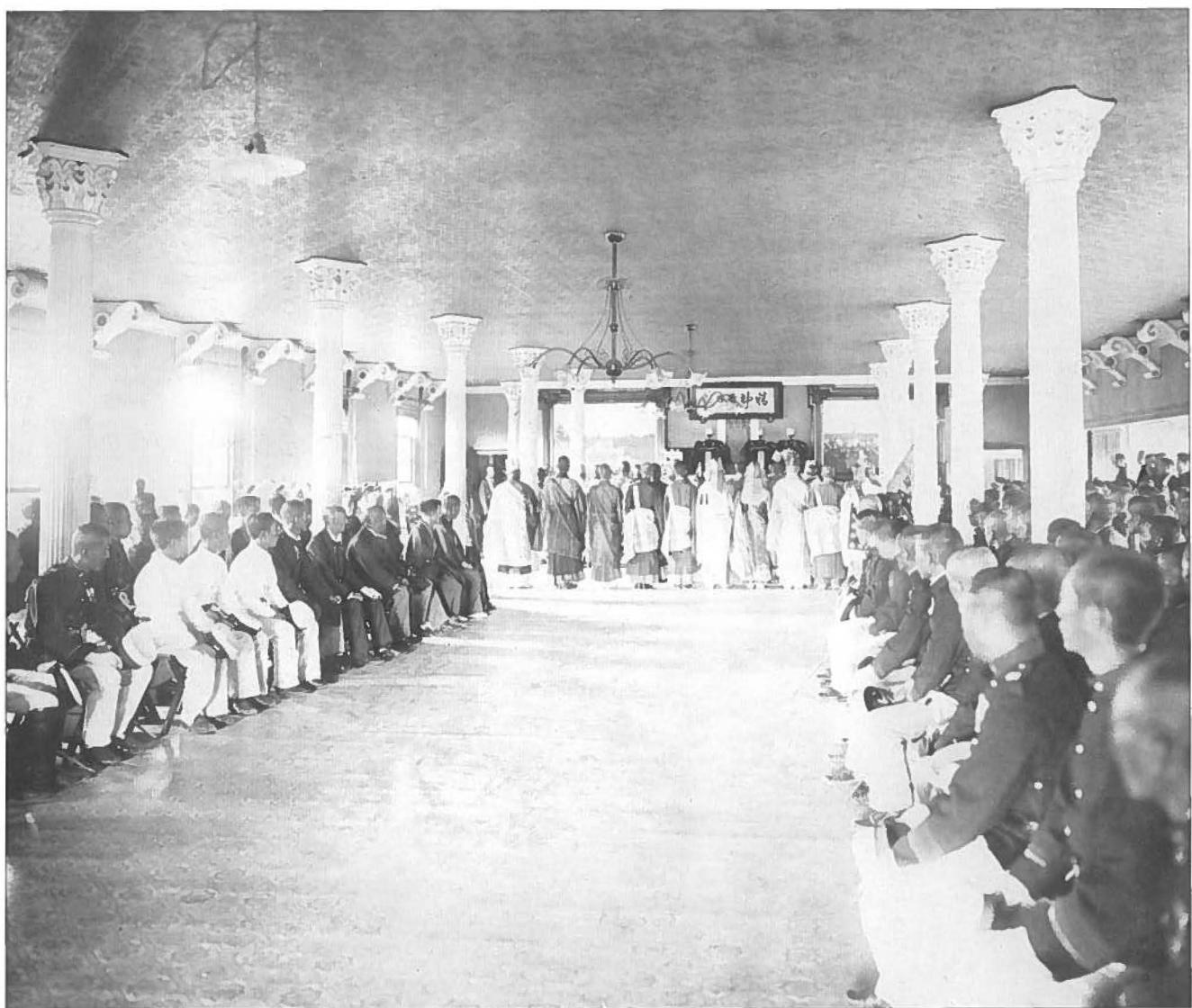
75. OPERATING ROOM, HIROSHIMA RESERVE HOSPITAL

Dr. McGee and one American nurse observe a leg amputation. The photographer has been permitted to set up his camera in the operating room and witness the entire operation. Photo by Herbert Ponting.



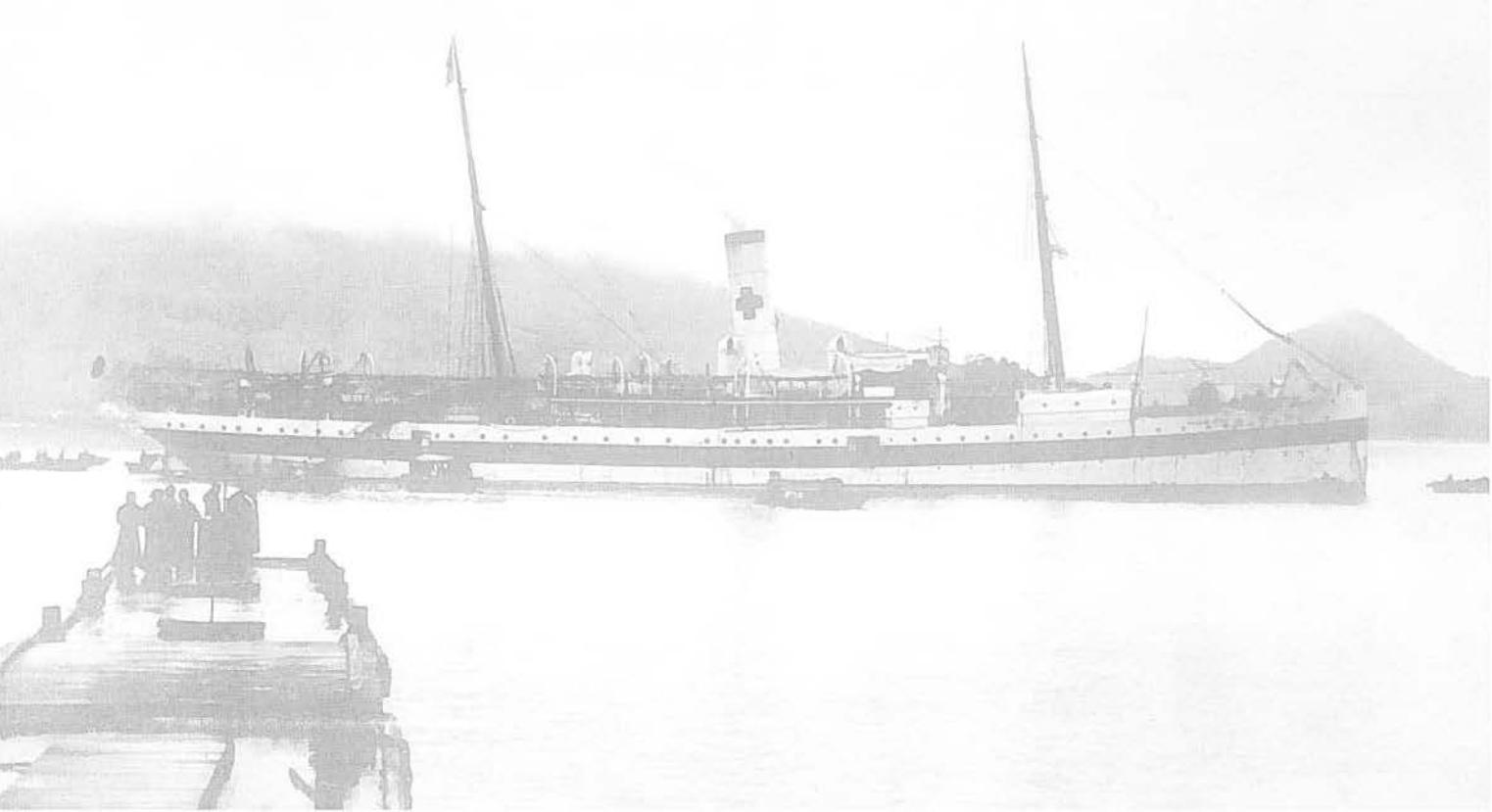
73. DR. MCGEE AND THE AMERICAN NURSES

Photographed in September 1904 at Hiroshima Reserve Hospital. Photo by Herbert Ponting.



122. FUNERAL SERVICE, SEPTEMBER 1904

A soldier's funeral taking place at the Military Club in Hiroshima.



Japanese Hospital Ships

The two most famous hospital ships in service during the war were those that belonged to the Red Cross Society of Japan, the *Hakuai Maru* (Benevolence) and the *Kosai Maru* (Charity). They are often depicted in woodblock prints and photographs. The twin vessels had been commissioned by the Red Cross Society in 1899.¹ The ships were designed to be convertible to hospital use in two or three days at most; during peacetime they were leased to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) Steamship Company, but they were restricted to short voyages only, so that they would never be far from Japan.²

The Japanese government chartered two more NYK ships for hospital work at the start of the war in February 1904: the *Kobe Maru* and *Saikyo Maru*. By the summer of 1904, ten ships were being used; and by the spring of 1905 there were twenty-two ships. This fleet of hospital vessels could carry as many as 10,000 men per week from the battlefields in Manchuria to Japan.

Each ship had three decks and was equipped to carry from 250 up to 310 patients (the latter amount if the first class saloon was used as a ward). There were three kitchens: for the ship officers, the patients, and the sailors. Medical facilities were an operating room (used chiefly for surgical dressings); a dispensary; an x-ray room; a quarantine room for infectious diseases; and a small morgue.

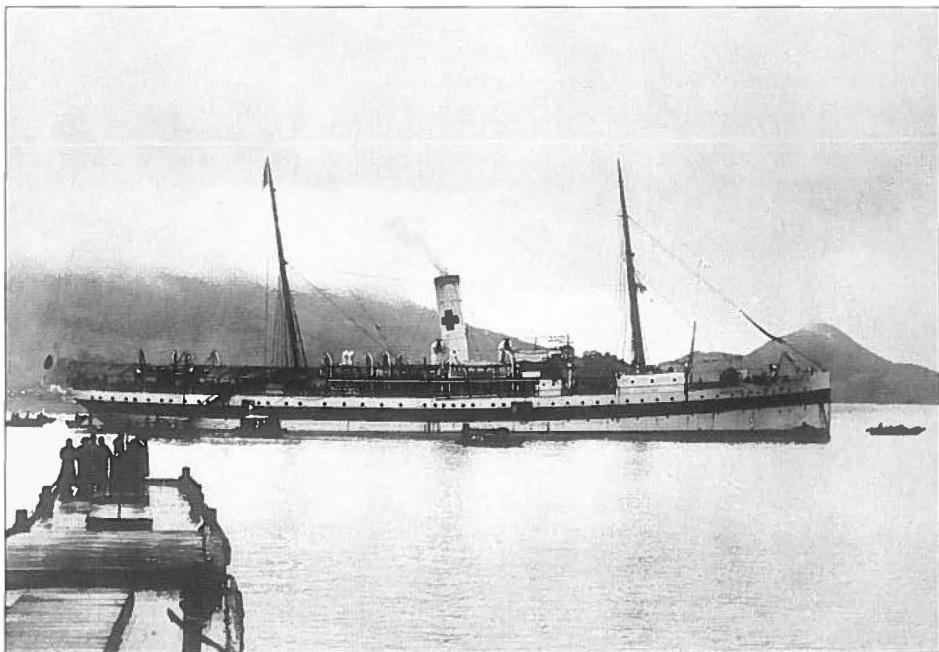
Medical staff consisted of the following:

- 4 doctors
- 11 male nurses
- 33 female nurses
- 2 secretaries
- 1 pharmacist, with 2 assistants
- 1 barber
- 3 cooks
- 1 washman

When a patient came on board he was immediately dressed in a kimono and provided with a shirt, slippers, and towel. He was allowed to keep his cap, stockings, and boots.

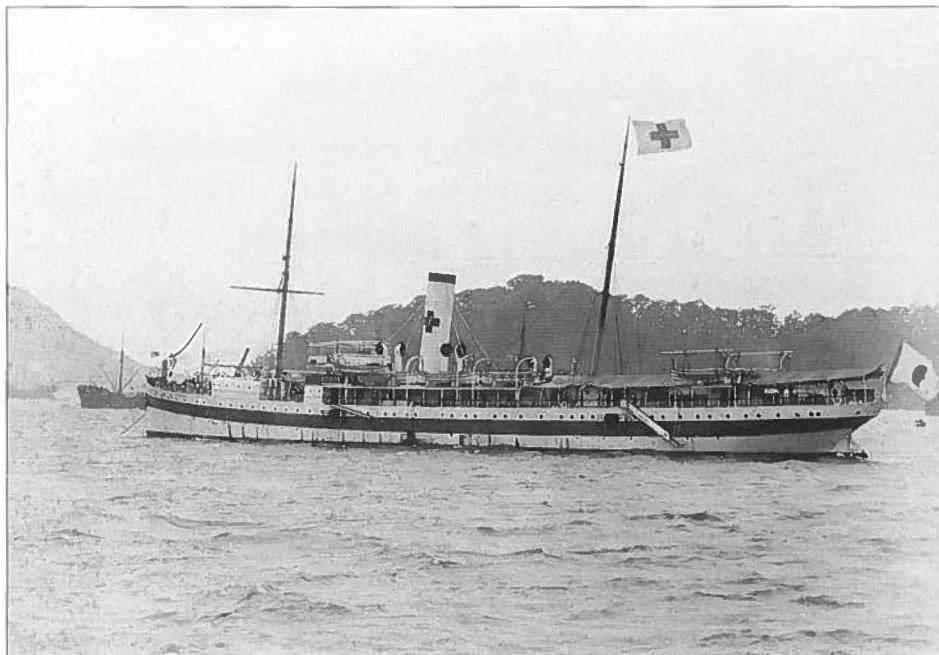
1. They were built by Lobnitz & Company of Renfrew, Scotland.

2. Japan declared war on 10 February, 1904. The *Hakuai Maru* sailed from Ujina as a hospital ship on February 21, 1904.



126. THE HOSPITAL SHIP *HAKUAI MARU*

Formal portrait of the famous hospital ship of the Red Cross Society of Japan at anchor in the Inland Sea of Japan.



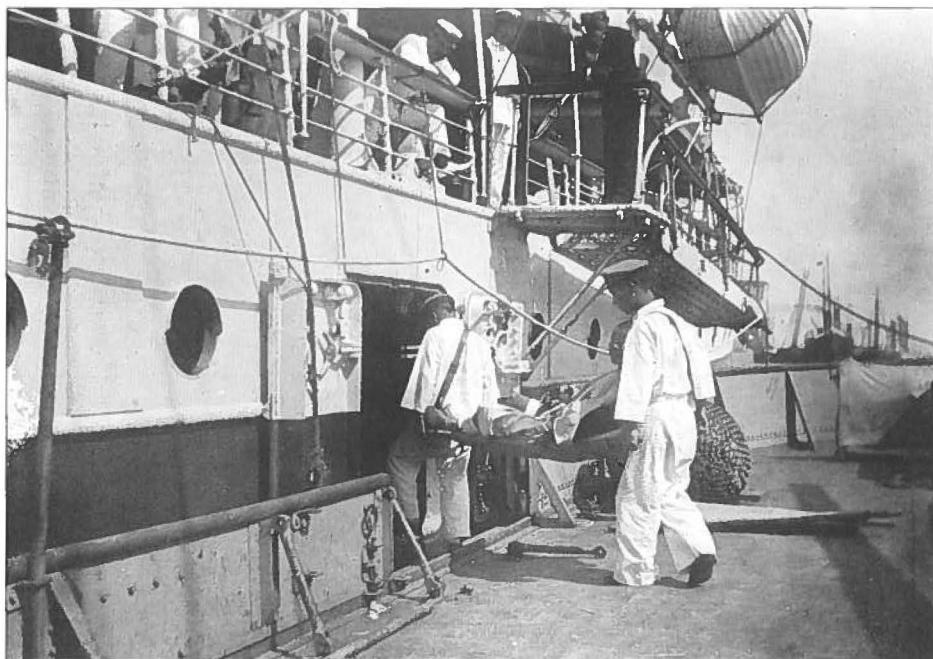
132. THE HOSPITAL SHIP *KOSAI MARU*

The sister ship to *Hakuai Maru*, also owned by the Red Cross Society of Japan, at anchor in the Inland Sea.



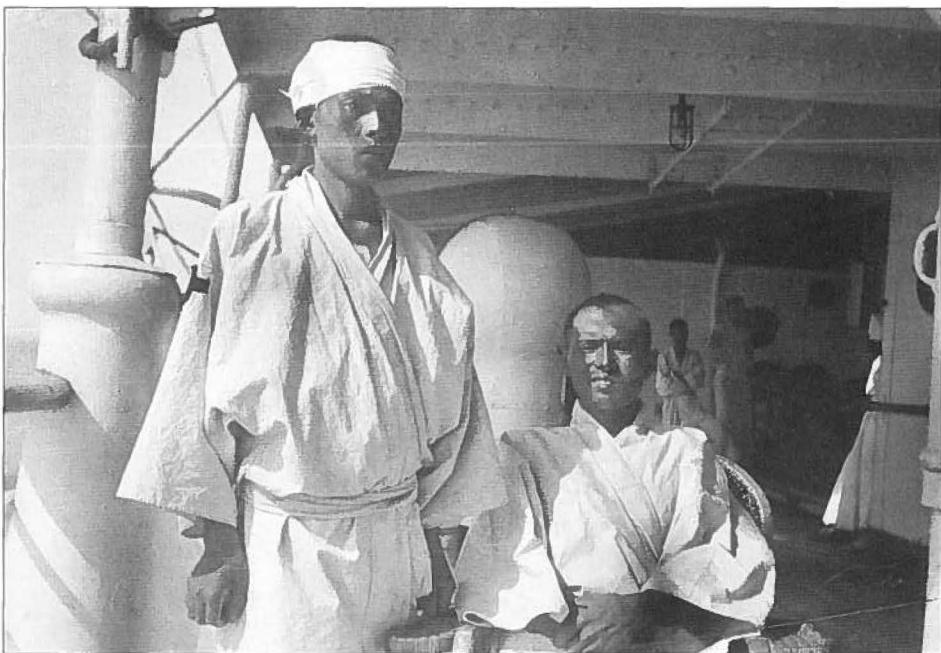
137. LOADING WOUNDED ONTO KOSAI MARU

Soldiers are carried from a lighter onto the hospital ship. Captain Honma stands at top right.



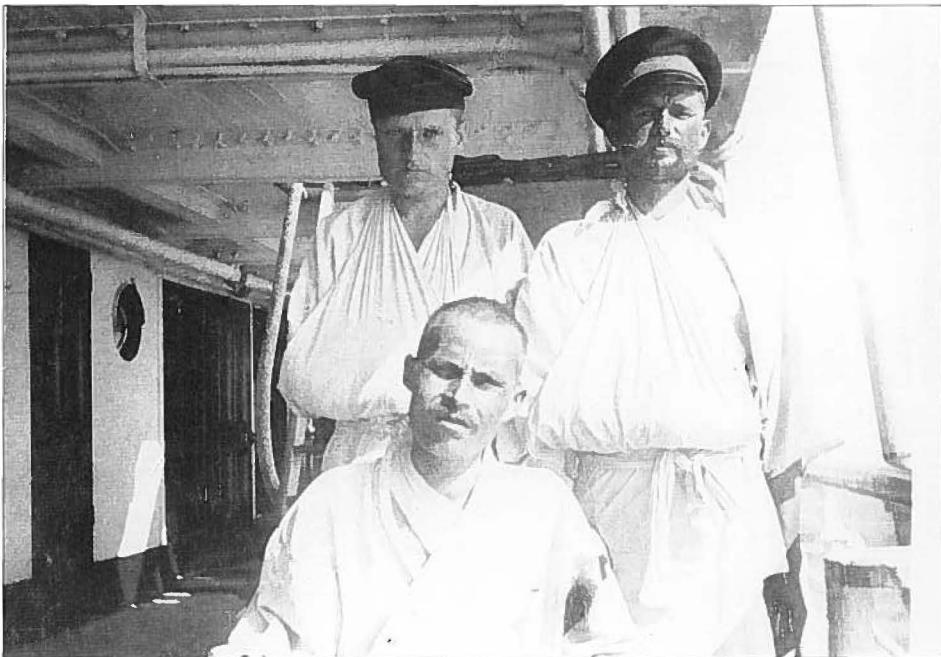
133. LOADING WOUNDED ONTO KOSAI MARU

Male nurses carrying wounded soldiers to the hospital ship. The photographer stands on the lighter, which has been secured to the side of the ship.



135. WOUNDED JAPANESE SOLDIERS ON THE KOSAI MARU

Private Gokichi Iwasaki and Private Nakamo were both wounded at Motien Pass.



136. WOUNDED RUSSIAN PRISONERS ON THE HOSPITAL SHIP KOBE MARU

Russian prisoners of war, en route to Matsuyama on the hospital ship *Kobe Maru* in August 1904.

Antung

JAPANESE HOSPITALS AT THE BATTLEFRONT

Wounded and sick soldiers from the Yalu River battlefield were sent back from the front lines to hospitals at Antung and Wiju.

Antung was located on the right bank (Manchurian side) of the Yalu River, about 30 miles from the mouth of the river. It was an important market town and its population was probably close to 10,000. The distance to the battlefields at Chiu-lien-cheng was three miles overland, a bit more by river.

The etappen hospital in Antung was located in a large Chinese mansion with numerous outbuildings. One visitor found the conditions crowded, barely sanitary, and "gloomy." To cut down on dirt, the walls and ceiling of the operating room were lined with bleached calico. Wounded Russians were held in a separate building, and were sent to Matsuyama as soon as they were judged fit to travel. Another, smaller hospital was located in a different part of the city.

The old walled Korean city of Wiju, on the Korean side of the Yalu, had roughly the same population as Antung. The Japanese army had built a pontoon bridge that crossed the Yalu, using two small islands to stabilize the bridge; Dr. McGee could cross the river on it instead of having to depend on water transport. The Wiju hospital held only about 50 patients in June 1904 and there were probably fewer still when Dr. McGee visited in August.¹ It was located in a Korean house that was even lower in standards of sanitation than the hospitals of Antung; one visitor called it "totally unsuitable."

From Antung and Wiju, the most severely wounded would normally be loaded onto lighters in Antung early in the morning for the trip down the river to Yongampo, where they could be transferred to a hospital ship. This trip could take four to five hours, but could also consume an entire day. Travel was complicated by the 12-foot tides (which allowed as little as 5 ft. clearance at low tide) and the numerous sandbars, which were hard to avoid at low tide.

The seaport of Yongampo, which the Japanese used as their base in 1904, was at the mouth of the Yalu. Passengers and cargo from Japan, or wounded soldiers from Antung, could not go directly between ship and land but had to be transferred by lighters or steam launches.

The next part of the trip, to Hiroshima or to Matsuyama (in the case of captured Russians) took at least four days on a hospital ship. The Yellow Sea often was covered with such dense fog that ships could not proceed; and until the Japanese regained control of the Yellow Sea in mid-August 1904 there were threats of engagements with Russian ships.

1. She traveled from Antung to Wiju on 6 August. It was at least six miles but probably required many hours; she may well have been carried in a chair the entire way.



107. JAPANESE SOLDIERS ARRIVING AT ANTUNG

The troops were transferred from troop transport ships onto shallow-draft lighters for the five-hour trip from Yongampo. The view here is up the Yalu River at Antung.



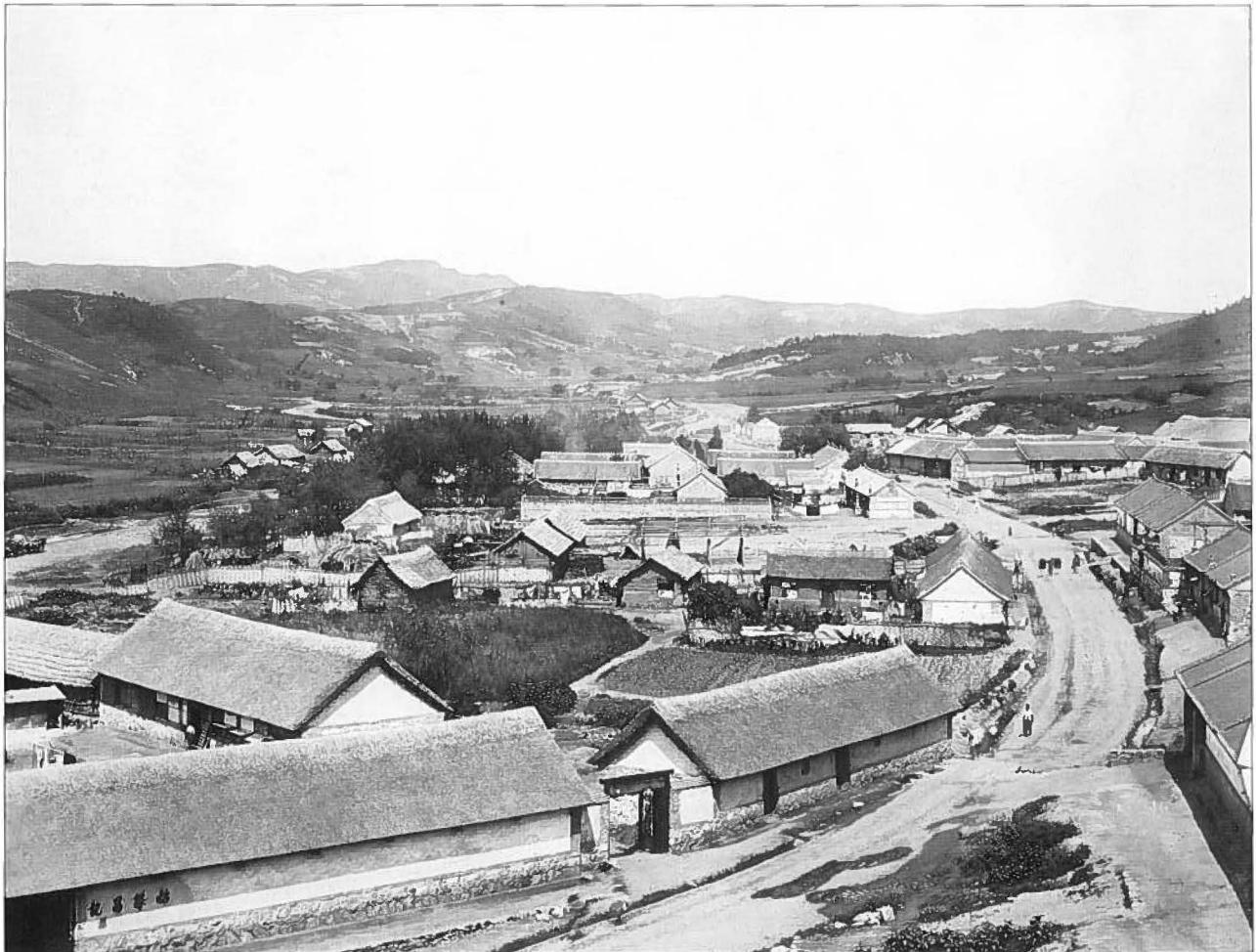
112. GROUP OF JAPANESE AND RUSSIAN OFFICERS IN ANTUNG

Dr. McGee, wearing her war medals, in the middle. She was accompanied by Miss Sato of the Tokyo Red Cross Hospital, who acted as companion, translator, and guide during the visit to Antung in August 1904.



111. DR. MCGEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF RED CROSS SOCIETY AT ANTUNG

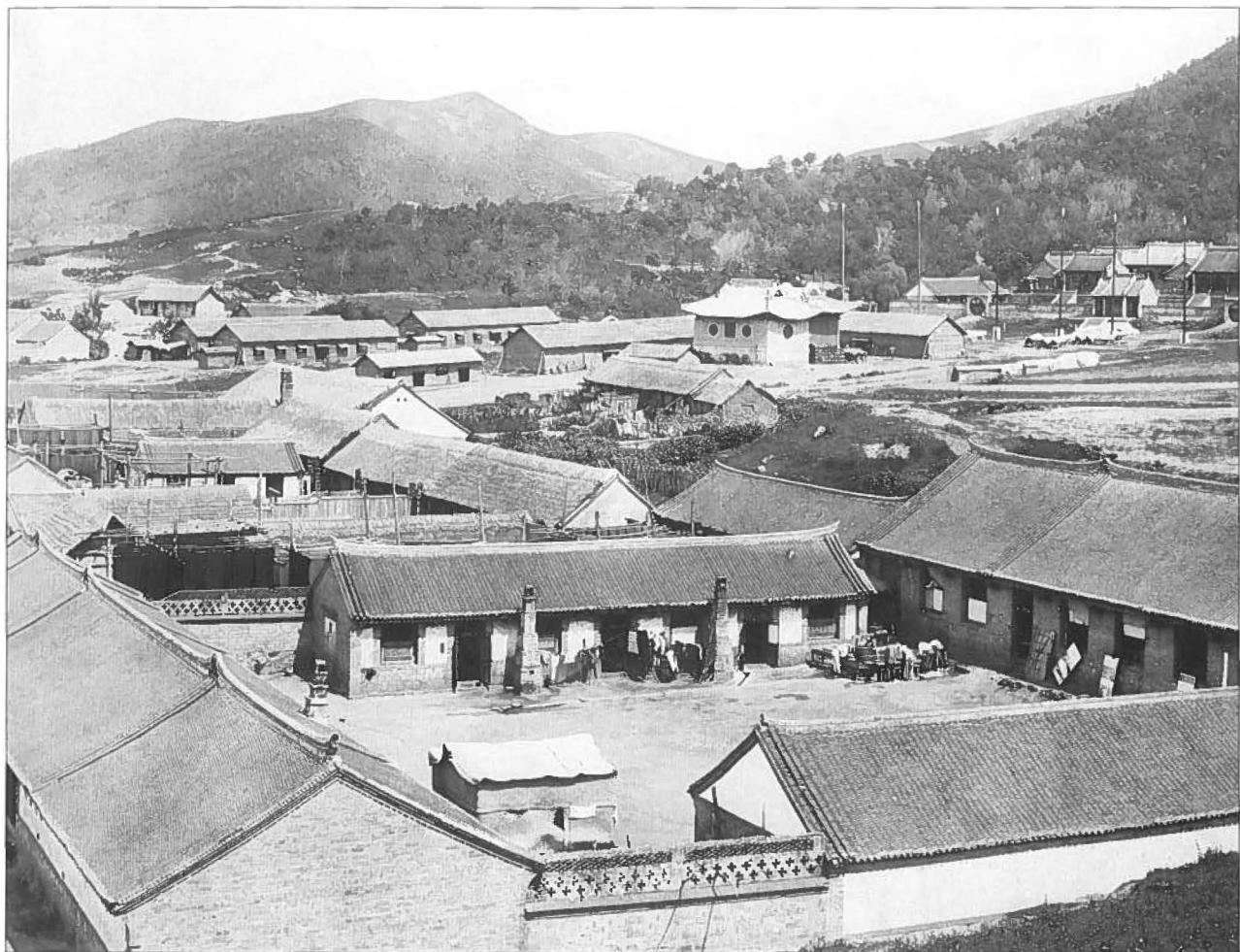
Japanese doctors and male nurses pose with Dr. McGee and Miss Sato at the Etappen Hospital in Antung, August 1904.



109. PANORAMIC VIEW OF ANTUNG

This view was taken from Cemetery Hill, Antung, looking northwest up the road which the Russians used in their retreat on 1 May 1904.

The houses on the right were used for the Japanese Etappen Hospital. The roof farthest back on the right edge of the picture is the building occupied by the Russian prisoners; the low roofs in front contain an operating room and a storage building. Other buildings are used for wards and for hospital administration.

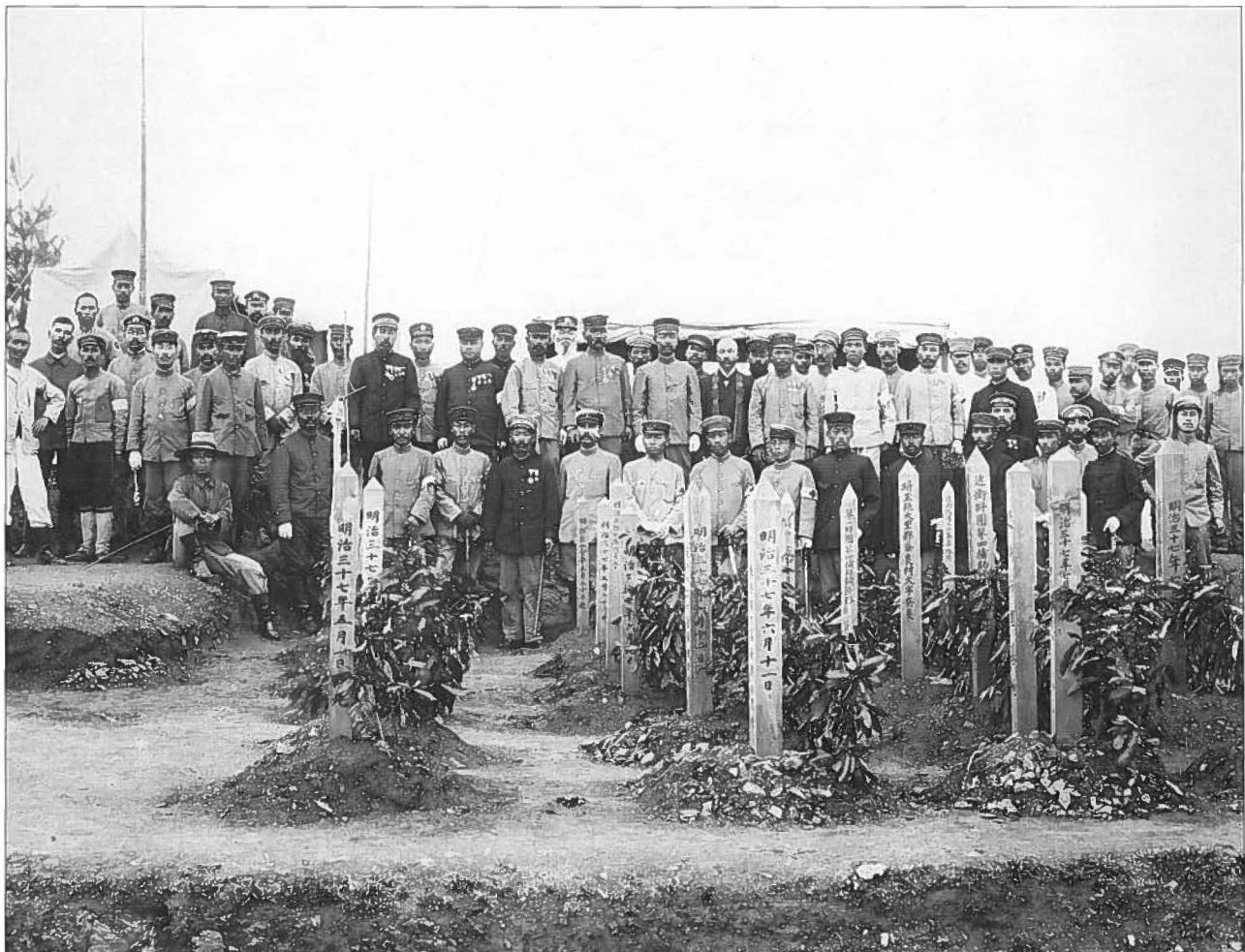


110. PANORAMIC VIEW OF ANTUNG

This view was taken from Cemetery Hill, Antung, looking northwest to the Etappen Hospital.

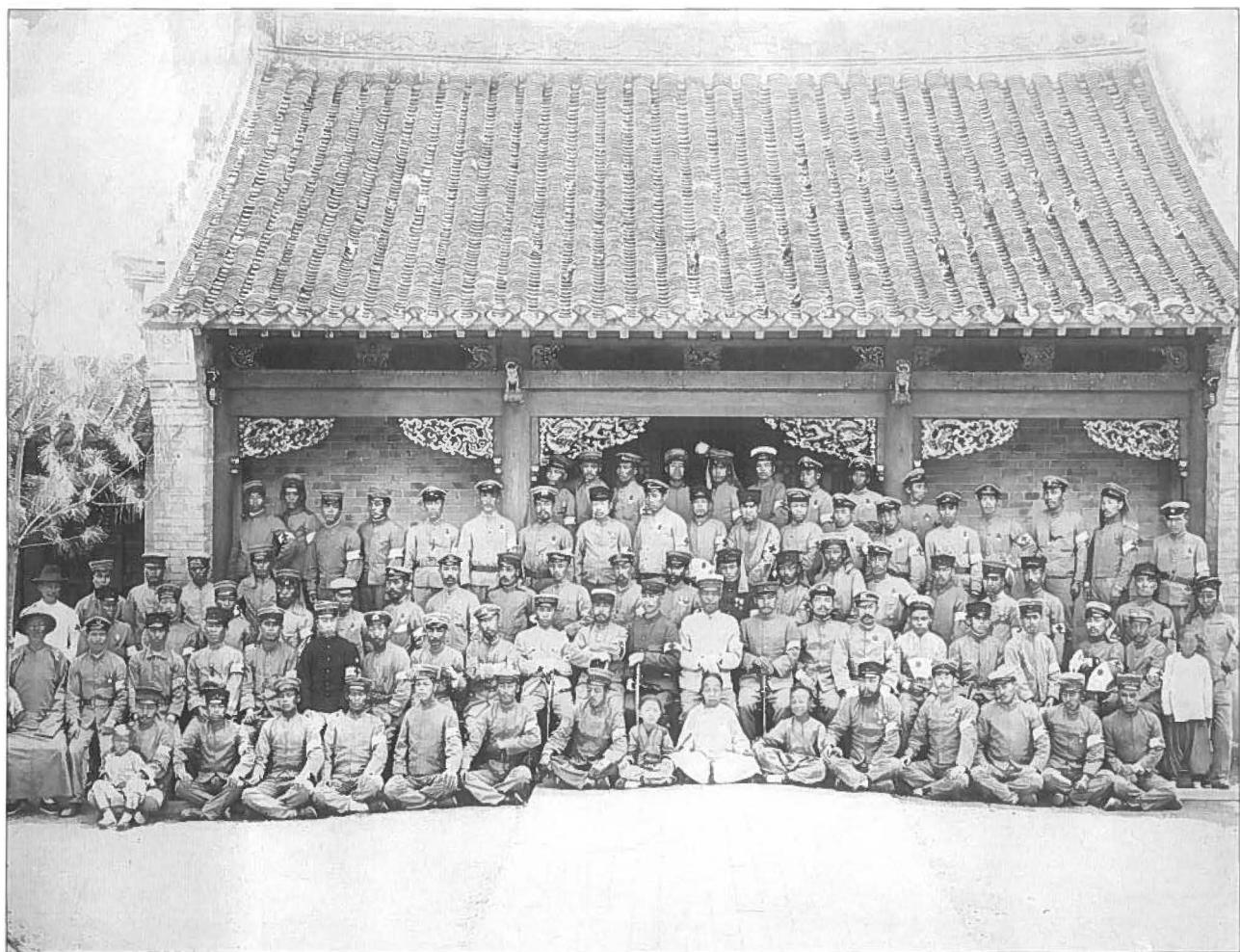
The Buddhist Temple of Tenkogu (Palace of Heaven) is at the far right; the lower roofed structure bisected by a pole is where Dr. McGee lived while at Antung. The buildings in the center of the photo that surround the temple are temporary structures made with light wooden frames and covered with Chinese straw mats; some are used as storehouses, others as barracks. In the foreground are men washing themselves.

As the Japanese First Army under General Kuroki moved farther into Manchuria, the hospital at Antung became a base hospital for his army.



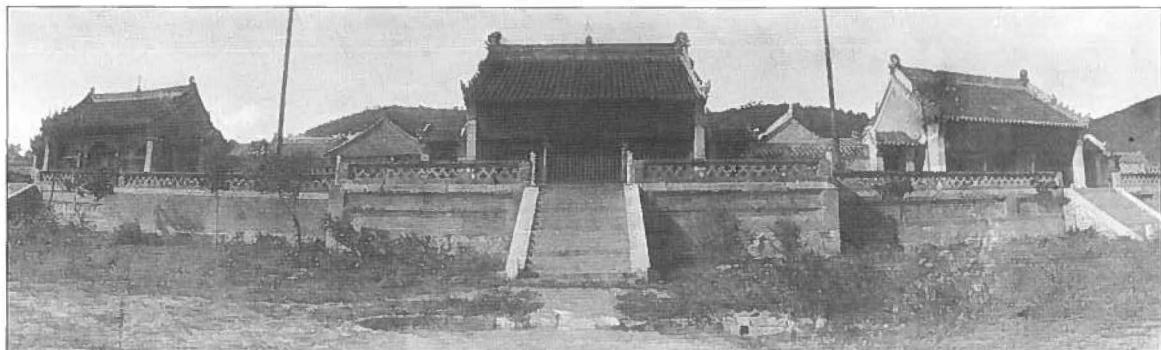
123. JAPANESE CEMETERY, ANTUNG, JULY 1904

The soldiers buried here died in the Yalu battle and in the weeks which followed, from 1 May to early July. The name and date of death are inscribed on the stick which marks each soldier's grave.



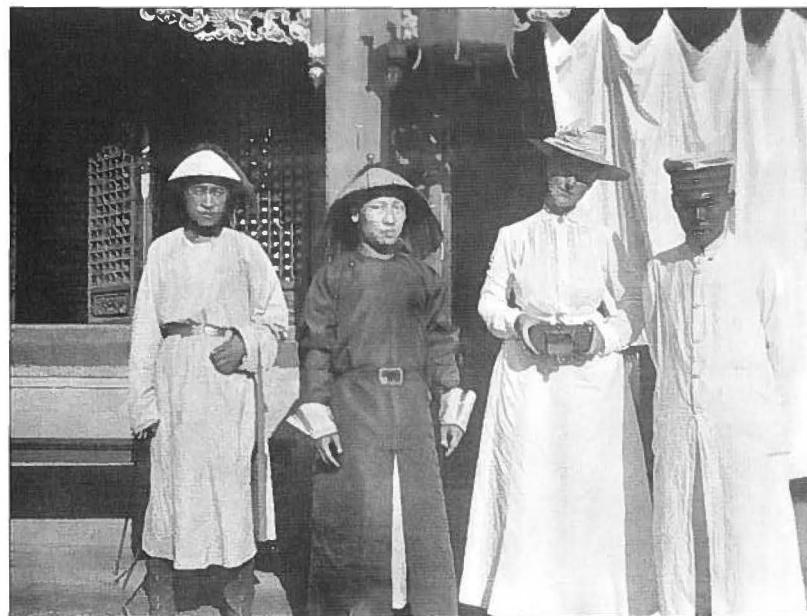
120. MEDICAL STAFF, ETAPPEN HOSPITAL, ANTUNG, JULY 1904

The doctors and male nurses are posed in front of the Buddhist temple which was used as a hospital. (The Chinese man at the extreme left in the photo was the owner of some of the houses which were being used by the hospital.) Note that female nurses did not serve at the front.



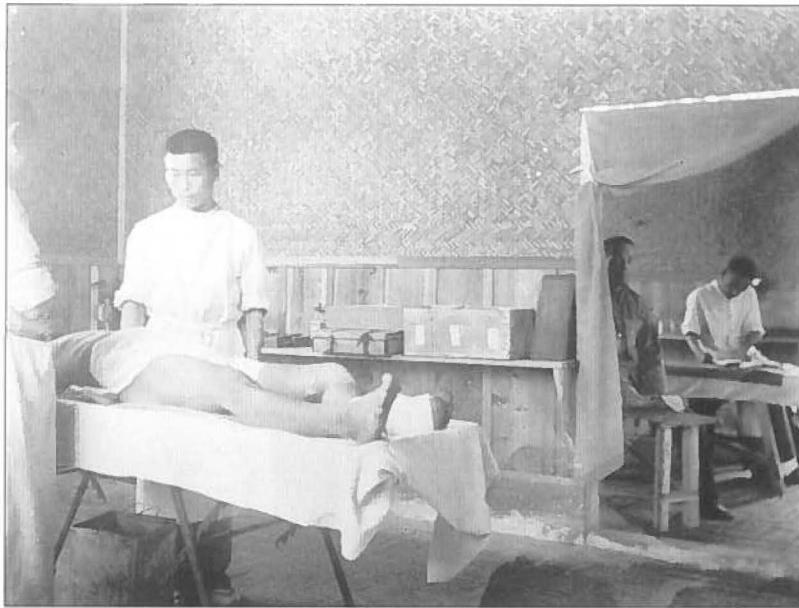
20. MCGEE RESIDENCE IN ANTUNG

Front view of the temple where she resided during her ten days in Antung.



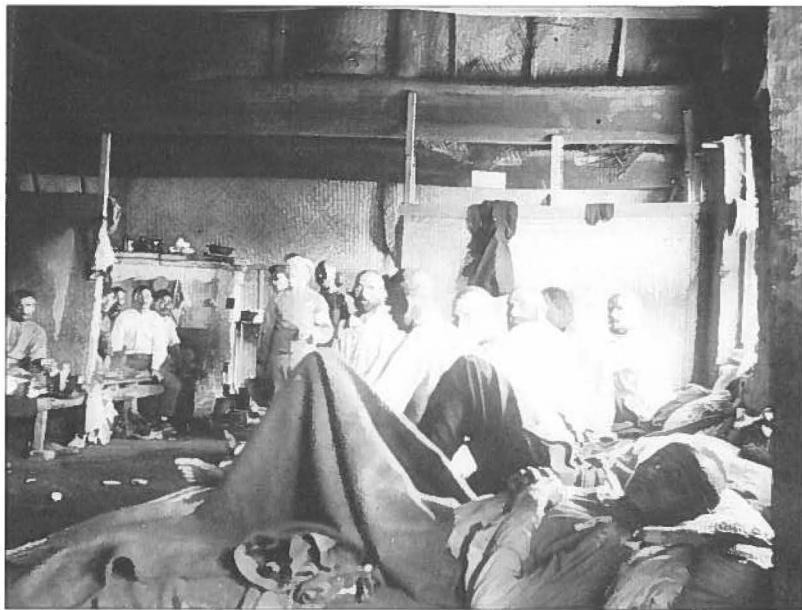
17. MCGEE RESIDENCE IN ANTUNG

Miss Kemmer, American nurse, poses in front of their house.



116. ETAPPEN HOSPITAL, ANTUNG

View of operating room with dressing room beyond.



117. WOUNDED RUSSIAN PRISONERS AT ANTUNG

Interior of hospital ward.



22. HALL OF THE GENERAL, WIJU; 6 AUGUST 1904

Entertainment at temple overlooking the town of Wiju. Four Korean dancing girls in the center; McGee party and spectators on the right.



23. HALL OF THE GENERAL, WIJU; 6 AUGUST 1904

Dr. McGee with the Korean dancing girls.

Matsuyama

RUSSIAN PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS

From the start of the Russo-Japan War in February 1904, Russian prisoners were moved from the battlefields to the picturesque castle town of Matsuyama, located on the island of Shikoku. The historic castle at Matsuyama was the property of the Japanese military establishment. One army brigade was headquartered at this castle.

Matsuyama was accessible from two seaports on the scenic Inland Sea: Mitsugahama was a regular stop for steamships coming either from Hiroshima or from Moji; Takahama, a smaller seaport around the headland to the east, was often used when the west wind was blowing.

The Japanese were very proud of the Russian camps at Matsuyama, and they encouraged visiting dignitaries to make the trip. It was relatively easy to get there in one day, leaving Ujina (the seaport of Hiroshima) early in the morning for a three- to four-hour trip across the Inland Sea; after landing at Mitsugahama there was a light railway to take visitors on the six-mile trip to Matsuyama, a journey of approximately 30 minutes. The British journalist Robert Hay made the trip on 17 June 1904 and described in a letter what he saw:

The sick and wounded were found in a hospital in the Castle grounds, where there are eight officers, two non-commissioned officers, and 35 soldiers. They were attended by Japanese Red Cross nurses; the men lay on mats...and the officers had camp beds...All looked very comfortable, had papers to read and tobacco to smoke. At the Kanjensha Temple hospital, there were eight non-commissioned officers and 17 wounded men; at the Rempei-ba (Parade Ground) hospital, there were 11 commissioned officers and 153 soldiers quartered in the City Hall; one non-commissioned officer and 45 men in the Dairenji Temple; and nine non-commissioned officers, 100 men, and four non-combatants in the Horinji Temple. The grand total being 23 officers, 42 non-commissioned officers, 523 soldiers, and four non-combatants.¹

While Hay thus visited slightly fewer than 600 Russian prisoners in six different locations around town, this total grew rapidly. Dr. Seaman visited in mid-July and found that the total had doubled to almost 1300 prisoners.²

Dr. McGee made several visits, one in June and the other in September; on the latter occasion she may have accompanied the famous photographer Herbert Ponting.

1. In *Japan Weekly Mail*, 25 June, 1904.

2. Seaman, *op. cit.*



121. RUSSIAN PRISONERS AT ANTUNG

Prisoners of war prior to departure for Matsuyama.



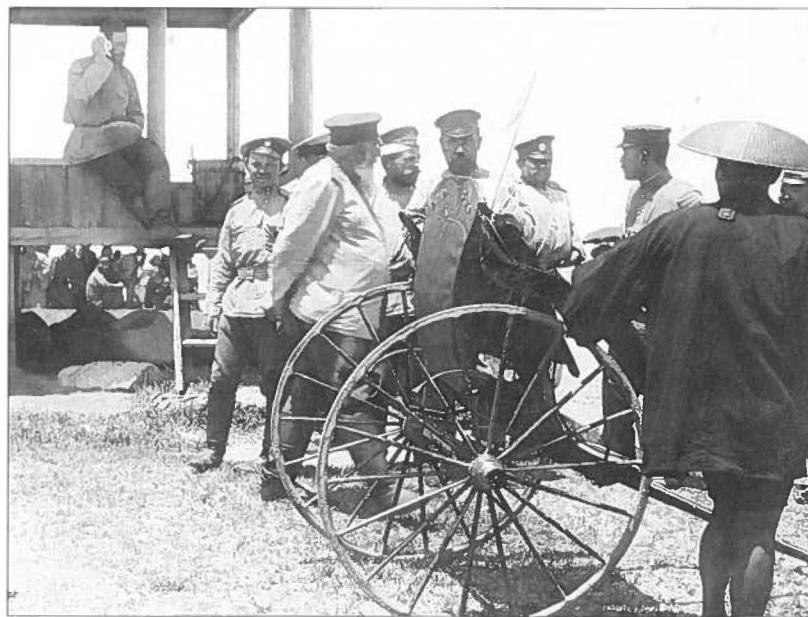
48. RUSSIAN PRISONERS OF WAR AT MISTUGAHAMA; 28 JUNE 1904

Captured on 14 June 1904 at the battle of Telissu and now en route to Matsuyama.



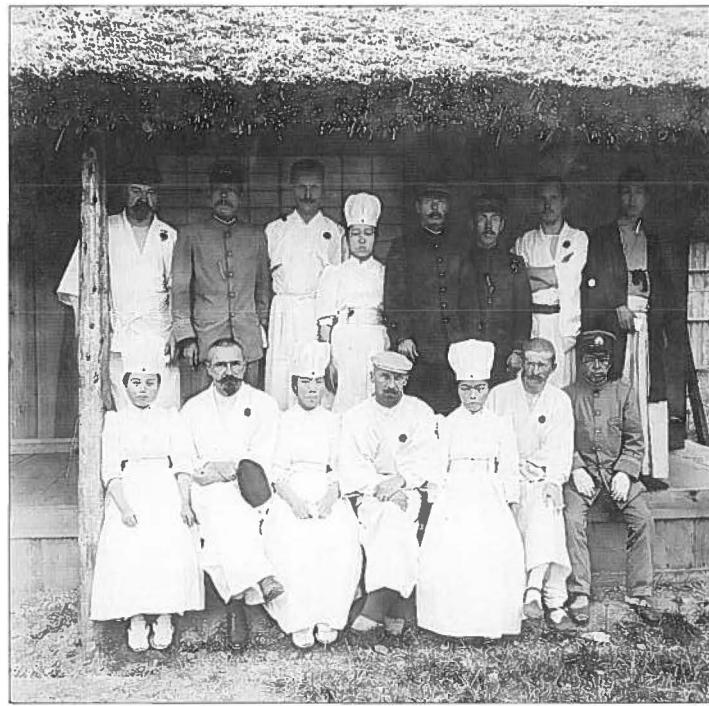
49. RUSSIAN PRISONERS OF WAR, TAKAHAMA, 15 MAY 1904

These prisoners were wounded on 1 May at the battle of the Yalu River.



50. RUSSIAN OFFICERS AT MITSUGAHAMA, 28 JUNE 1904

The officers shown here had been captured at Tellisu on 14 June.



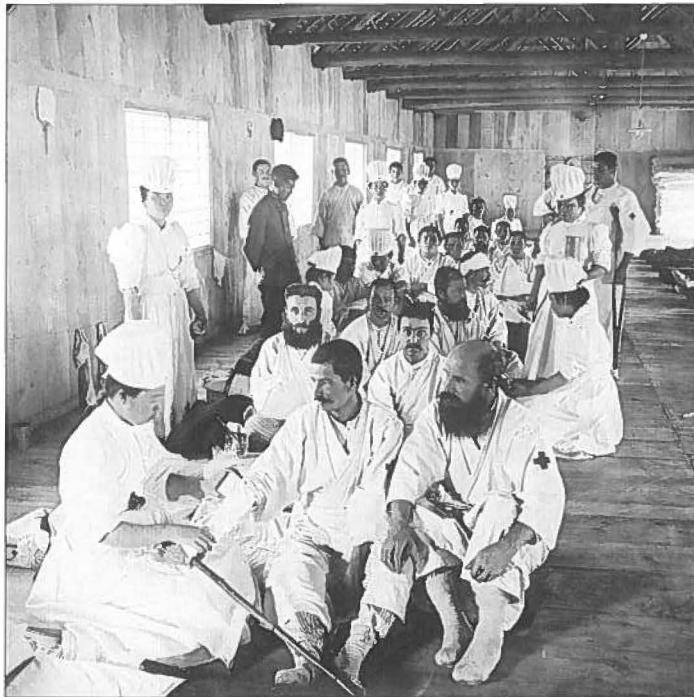
96. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

Russian officers captured on 14 June at Tellisu. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



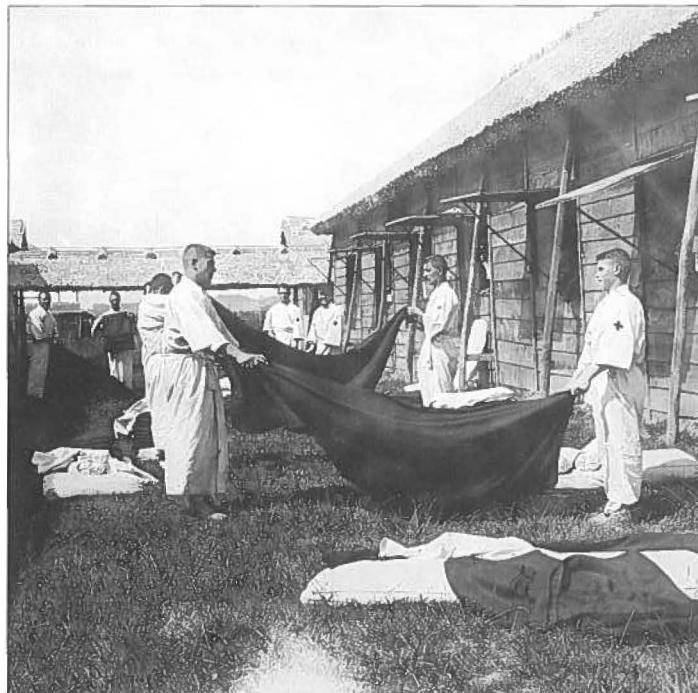
103. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

Russian prisoners wounded in Manchuria. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



100. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

Russian prisoners in hospital ward. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



102. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

Russian prisoners fold their bed linen. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



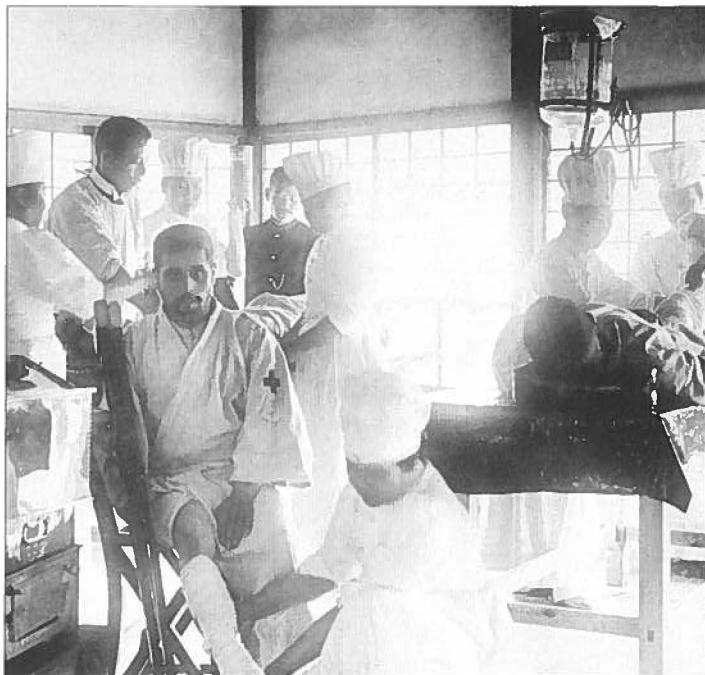
98. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

Wounded Russian soldier attended by two Japanese nurses.
Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



95. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

Wounded Russian soldier attended by Japanese nurse.
Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



51. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

Operating room. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



94. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

A Japanese surgeon is about to operate on a wounded Russian at the Prisoner of War Hospital. The photographer was permitted to set up his camera in the operating room. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



99. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

Russian prisoners recuperating. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.



97. PRISONER-OF-WAR HOSPITAL, MATSUYAMA

Russian prisoners recuperating. Photograph by Herbert Ponting.

Herbert G. Ponting

A CORRESPONDENT IN WARTIME JAPAN

Herbert George Ponting (1870-1935) had already established himself as a preeminent commercial photographer by the time he arrived in wartime Japan in the summer of 1904. In addition, he had the benefit of having made two previous trips to the Far East—in 1901 for *Leslie's Magazine*, and in 1903 for a publisher of stereo views, Underwood and Underwood.

He was hired in the spring of 1904 by H. C. White & Co., another stereo view manufacturer, to travel to Japan and take photographs of wartime Japan; in addition, he had credentials from *Harper's Weekly Magazine*. By the time of his arrival most correspondents had already departed for the battlefield, and Ponting had to content himself with taking photos within Japan. By the middle of August he had obtained "a signed and sealed document from the War Department"¹ granting permission to take photos in Japan.

He proceeded from Tokyo to the Inland Sea, at first with the objective of photographing the famous shrine at Miyajima, and from there proceeding to Hiroshima where he had obtained permission from the War Department to visit the Reserve (Base) Hospitals at Hiroshima. His objective was to observe the work of the Red Cross Society of Japan in action.

Arriving at Hiroshima, he "found the town swarming with soldiers." Many Western observers in wartime Japan noted how little they saw of the actual impact of war on daily life; but at Hiroshima the impact was everywhere. Ponting arranged accommodations at a Japanese inn right along the Otagawa River; from the rear balcony he could see the sampans arriving from the harbor at Ujina with their cargo of wounded soldiers.

He reached Hiroshima early in September 1904, a time when casualties were very heavy, both from the investment of Port Arthur and from the battle of Liaoyang. He stayed almost three weeks; he was able to take photographs of wounded men arriving at the riverbank, and later being operated upon in the "main" hospital where Dr. McGee and the American nurses were stationed. He was able to observe their work at close range—possibly this was his objective, since both his employers were American companies.

Ponting came to admire the fantastic efforts which the Japanese nurses made on behalf of their wounded country

men. He devoted an entire chapter in his reminiscences to a reevaluation of how Westerners should look at Japanese women. It was not unusual for a Japanese nurse to work a 28-hour shift during the busiest times at the hospital—starting at 8 A.M. on Day One and finishing at 1 P.M. on Day Two. His photographs of Japanese nurses at the Hiroshima hospitals show his admiration for their sensitivity, courtesy, and professional manner.

At the end of his time in Hiroshima, Ponting traveled across the Inland Sea to Matsuyama to observe the camps and hospitals of the Russian prisoners of war. Once again, Ponting was especially struck by the way in which the Japanese nurses took as good care of their Russian charges as they did of their own countrymen: "At Matsuyama the Russians could not sound the praises of their gentle Japanese nurses loud enough. The looks with which the fallen followed every movement of their little guardians told a plain and simple tale."²

Ponting spent one week taking photographs in Matsuyama before returning to Tokyo. He spent the balance of 1904 visiting places within Japan; he became a very good customer of the Fujiya Hotel in scenic Miyanoshita, where he spent the Christmas holidays. He was finally able to travel to Port Arthur in 1905, but long after the battles had ended. He went north from there to join General Kuroki's First Army at Mukden. However it is not clear whether he witnessed any combat during his tour of duty in wartime Japan.

Ponting took memorable scenic photographs of Meiji Japan, but the documentary photos which he took in Japan have been totally neglected. His most enduring fame as a photographer was achieved when he accompanied Captain Robert Falcon Scott to Antarctica in the fall of 1910. Ponting was selected by Scott from a pool of more than one hundred applicants. His photographs of the expedition taken in 1911 and early in 1912, before Scott departed on his ill-fated trip to the South Pole, are a memorable achievement. Ponting returned to England in the spring of 1912, and these dramatic photos made him a world-wide celebrity.



1. Herbert G. Ponting, *In Lotus-Land Japan*, 393

2. *Ibid.* 251

Exhibition Checklist

*Exhibit number, original caption, photograph identification number.
* indicates the photo is printed in this catalogue.- page number follows*

1. Japanese tea given by Mr. and Mrs. Okuda, Seattle, Washington, March 24, 1904. Mr. Okuda, Miss Kratz, Miss Kemmer, Miss Russell, Miss Cooke, Miss Neeb, Mrs. Okuda (an American), Rev. Okasaki, Mrs. Okasaki, Mrs. Takahashi, Dr. McGee, Miss Newell, Mr. Kawakami, Mrs. Nishii, Miss King, Baby Okasaki, Miss Gladwin, Miss Mackereth. (6)
- 2*. Dr. McGee and nurses on hotel steps, Yokohama, with Mrs. Wood and Japanese high officials on arrival, 1904. (94)p.26
- 3*. The *S.S. Shawmut*, as we are about to leave it in Yokohama harbor. April 22, 1904—8:30 A.M. (156)p.24
4. The landing at the wharf. Yokohama—April 22, 1904. (180)
- 5*. A very small part of the crowd which greeted us at Yokohama. Ladies in black uniforms at right are members of Ladies Volunteer Nurse Association of the Red Cross. (178)p.25
- 6*. Walking between lines of ladies from wharf to church. Yokohama—arrival in Japan. Dr. McGee escorted by Dr. Takagi, advancing. (179)p.25
- 7*. Yokohama—April 22, 1904. Walking from wharf to church. (229)p.9
- 8*. Chief of Police of Yokohama leads, Governor of Kanagawa Ken, province escorts, Dr. McGee, Mr. Togo (interpreter), Dr. Takagi (officer of Red Cross Society), Miss Gladwin (one of party). Yokohama arrival. Being escorted through the streets of Yokohama—the crowd keeps at a respectful distance! (230)p.24
9. Garden of Grand Hotel, Yokohama. Starting for ride about the city—afternoon. At right, Dr. Takagi, Dr. McGee, Mrs. Col. Wood of American Legation, Miss Gladwin, Miss King, Miss Mackereths. Day of arrival in Japan, April 22, 1904. (14)
- 10*. Garden of Grand Hotel. Starting for a ride about city, afternoon. Dr. A. N. McGee, Mrs. Col. Wood. (31)p.26
- 11*. Arrival at luncheon [given by] Count Matsukata, Uyeno Park [Tokyo]. May 1904. (159)p.28
- 12*. Guests at banquet given to Dr. McGee and party by Count Matsukata, President of the Red Cross Society at Uyeno Park, Tokyo, May 1904. (5)p.28
13. [Japanese women and girls in kimonos. McGee in center.] (4)
- 14*. Hiroshima—View from our house. Mountains, some 3000 ft. high, surrounded the city, which is built on a delta plain. (238)p.37
- 15*. Hiroshima—Otemachi, Yochome, “Medjikan”. Front of our house—the busy street cleared for the photograph. Houses, like everything else in Japan, are plain outside, fine within. (136) ..p.37
16. Garden of our home. The “boy,” stone lantern, wash basin (!) and towel. (40)
- 17*. Dr. Narabyashi, Miss Kemmer, governor’s son-in-law, his servant, before “my residence,” Antung. (10)p.62
18. Antung—Best silk shop. Chinese cart with army lumber. (224)
19. Antung—My residence. Temple of Kwan Tei, some of my party. (223)
- 20*. Front of temple building at Antung where I lived. (46)p.62
21. Hills just north of Qurenjo [Chiu-lien-cheng] showing ramparts for Russian cannon in key to the position (near & on further hill). Looking N.E. across Yalu to isolated rock hill, first point from which Russians were driven April 30 night retreat. (13)
- 22*. “Togunte,” “Hall of the General”, Wiju, Korea. Overlooking town: important point in outside wall of ancient fortifications. My party with spectators: At right—Korean women, at left—Korean men, center—four Korean dancing girls. Aug. 6, 1904. (35)p.64
- 23*. McGee at left. Korean dancing girls, dressed mainly in white, but some green, pink, and yellow garments. 12 to 16 years old. Japanese-Chinese interpreter beside them, Mrs. Oneki, and behind a Korean boy employed in hospital. Taken in “Hall of the General,” Wiju. Backs of 2 boxes [chairs] in which Miss Sato and I were carried appear. (37)p.64
- 24*. Count Matsukata, President of Red Cross Society 1904 (one of the greatest men in Japan). K. Ogawa, photographer. Tokyo, Japan. (91)p.31
25. Mrs. F. Kitada, Member of Patriotic Society, Moji. Moji Shashinkan, photographer. (78)
- 26*. Dr. K. Takagi, retired Surgeon General, Imperial Navy. A Director of the Red Cross Society of Japan. April 27, 1904. R. Maruki, photographer. Atarashibashi Kado, Shiba Tokyo, Japan. (66) ..p.33
27. Dr. Matsuda, Chief Doctor of Second Toyko Relief Detachment [Red Cross]. J. Matsumoto, photographer. (69)
28. Miss Masa Kato, Chief Nurse, Second Detachment [Red Cross]. (74)
29. Martha Yuki, Kikuihi. Editor of *Girls Magazine*, Tokyo Monthly. Photograph by T. Hasegawa, Nakazakauwe Kudan, Toyko. (73)
- 30*. Marchioness Nabeshima, wife of one of the greatest Daimio of old Japan. A daughter of theirs was wife of an Imperial Prince. R. Maruki, photographer, Atarashibashi Kado, Shiba Tokyo, Japan. (72)p.33

31. Princess Nichiai Murakumo, Kyoto. M. Hori, photographer, Kyoto, Japan. (84)

32. Mrs. Omori, wife of Governor of Kyoto. M. Hori, photographer, Kyoto, Japan. (81)

33*. Wife of Field Marshall Oyama, Marchioness Stematsu Oyama. K. Ogawa, photographer, Tokio, Japan. (88) .p.32

34. Mr. Ko King, Governor of Antung (right of picture) and his son-in-law. (145)

35. Ladies Patriotic Society, Moji. Photograph by M. Hattori. (7)

36. "To Dr. MacGEE [sic] with best regards, Dr. Tanaka. Oct. 10, 1904, Hiroshima." H. F. Satow, photographer. (236)

37. Dr. K. Onishi, Eighth Kamiyanagicho Hiroshima, Nippon. February 11, 1905. Distributed by H.F. Satow G.I.C.P. photographer. Studio in Kudanazaka Toyko, Japan. (67)

38. Red Cross Society headquarters entrance gate, Tokyo. Distributed by H.F. Satow G.I.C.P. photographer. (123)

39*. Red Cross Society hospital administration building, Tokyo. Distributed by H.F. Satow G.I.C.P. photographer. (127) .p.29

40. Rear view of the headquarters of the Red Cross Society of Japan. Distributed by H.F. Satow G.I.C.P. photographer. (147)

41*. Rear view of the main hospital of the Red Cross Society of Japan, Tokyo, showing wards. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (151) .p.29

42. A temporary Red Cross Hospital at Chemulpo [Inchon], set up 10 February 1904. Distributed by Yegi-Honten Photographic Studio, 4 Kandawajicho 2. Chome. Published in *Japan's Fight for Freedom and Collier's Photographic Record of the Russo Japanese War*. Photo by Robert L. Dunn. (1)

43. A Russian prisoner with 120 wounds. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (129)

44. Russian sailors, slightly wounded, leaving the temporary hospital of the Red Cross Society of Japan at Chemulpo [Inchon] for the hospital ship. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (125)

45. A Russian prisoner undergoing a secondary operation for gun-shot wounds in the thigh. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (153)

46. Barracks at Chi-nam-po, Corea [Korea]. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (102)

47. The sick and wounded at the entrance of a field hospital in a Corean [Korean] temple. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (176)

48*. Russian prisoners, taken at battle of Tokuriji [Tellisu] landing at Mitsugahama, Japan en route to Matsuyama, June 28, 1904. Presented by Mr. Ogumi of Dogo, near Matsuyama. (124) .p.66

49*. Landing of Russian prisoners wounded at Kiurenjo [Chiu-lien-cheng] at Takahama, near Matsuyama, May 15. (158) .p.67

50*. Landing of Russian officers taken prisoners at battle of Tokuriji [Tellisu] at Mitsugahama Japan, en route to Matsuyama June 28. In center with long beard, Col. Left of Kurumaya, Lieut. Kojima interpreting (155) .p.67

51*. Russian prisoner in an operating room of Matsuyama Hospital. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (128) .p.71

52. Wounded Russian prisoners and relief staff at the Red Cross Hospital in Matsuyama. Distributed by H.F. Satow, photographer. (206)

53*. Consulting room of Tokyo Reserve Hospital. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (162) .p.30

54. Wounded Chinese soldiers at the main hospital of the Red Cross Society of Japan 1894-5. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (149)

55. Operating room of Reserve Hospital at Zentsuji. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (144)

56*. Ward of Tokyo Reserve Hospital. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (186) .p.30

57*. Second Relief Detachment, Tokyo Red Cross [probably taken in Hiroshima at the Military Reserve Hospital]. Stamp on back: Y. Hashimoto, Hiroshimashi. (48) .p.36

58*. Group of nurses at Hiroshima Reserve Hospital, July 1904. [Dr.] McGee in center—no cap. Stamp on back: Y. Hashimoto, Hiroshimashi (43) .p.36

59. Ward 10 [Hiroshima]. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (185)

60. T. Kojima Private. Patient of ward 4. Hiroshima Yobi Byoin [Reserve Hospital]. T. Hondo, photographer. (218)

61*. [Wounded soldier being removed from lighter at hospital in Hiroshima, possibly after battle of Liao Yang.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (251) .p.40

62. Wounded soldiers from Liao Yang being landed at Hiroshima. Title from Library of Congress stereocard 221B, a similar picture. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (235)

63*. [Wounded soldier being carried in a sling-like stretcher after being landed at Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (194) .p.39

64*. [Wounded soldiers being removed from lighter at hospital in Hiroshima, possibly after battle of Liao Yang.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (253) .p.40

65*. [Wounded soldiers being landed at Hiroshima]. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (193) .p.39

66*. [Wounded Japanese soldier pulled in a rickshaw, at Hiroshima.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (195) .p.41

67. [Wounded Japanese soldier carried on a stretcher at Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (198)

68. [Wounded soldier carried on stretcher at Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (200)

69. [Wounded soldier in rickshaw as other patients and American nurses look on, Hiroshima, Japan]. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (254) .p.45

70. [Patient in rickshaw being brought into Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima, while Red Cross nurses watch.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (234) .p.41

71*. [Wounded Russian soldier carried on stretcher at Matsuyama.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (191) .p.41

72. [Japanese Red Cross nurses posing for photographs while wounded soldiers observe through a window at Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima]. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (203) .p.48

73*. Dr. Anita McGee and American Red Cross nurses at Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (249) .p.48

74*. Patients lying on stretchers in the shade of a wisteria arbor outside the operating room waiting their turn. Title from Library of Congress stereocard #267. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (252) .p.42

75*. Amputating the shattered leg of a wounded soldier, operating room of the Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima, Japan. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. Title taken from similar view at Library of Congress, White stereograph #8361. (205) .p.48

76*. American and Japanese Red Cross nurses attending a wounded Japanese soldier, Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima, Japan. Title from Library of Congress stereocard White Co. #8364. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (241) .p.46; cover

77*. [Wounded Japanese soldier attended by Japanese and American Red Cross nurses. The American nurse is rubbing liquid on his leg.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (242) .p.46

78*. Japanese soldier shot through head and arm attended by American [Miss Cook] and Japanese Red Cross nurses, Military Reserve Hospital, [Hiroshima], Japan. From White stereocard at Library of Congress: #8367. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (217) .p.44

79. Ward 10, Hiroshima after crowding. "Ward 10 in the Military Reserve Hospital at Hiroshima. Chief Surgeon Dr. Tanaka and Dr. A. McGee in foreground." #145V. Copyright by T.W. Ingersoll, published by Ingersoll View Co. Information from stereocard in Library of Congress. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (232) .p.41

80. [Wounded Japanese soldier attended by American and Japanese Red Cross nurses, Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (202) .p.41

81*. [Wounded Japanese soldier attended by Japanese and American Red Cross nurses. The Japanese nurse is bathing his head, while the American nurse is adjusting his broken leg.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (243) .p.14

82*. [Wounded soldiers attended by Japanese and American Red Cross nurses at Military Reserve Hospital in Hiroshima]. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (192) .p.44

83*. [Japanese wounded in Ward 10 attended by Japanese Red Cross nurses, Military Hospital at Hiroshima, Japan.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (240) .p.47

84*. [Wounded soldier attended by American and Japanese Red Cross nurses at Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (196) .p.45

85*. [Wounded soldier being moved by Japanese Red Cross nurses using a harness while an American nurse and Japanese doctor observe, Military Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (199) .p.45

86. Convalescent Ward, Military Hospital, Japan. Title from Library of Congress stereocard published by U.S. Stereograph Co., North Bennington, VT #8401. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (244) .p.41

87*. Japanese wounded in Ward 10, Military Hospital at Hiroshima, Japan. Title from Library of Congress stereocard White Co. #8360. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (239) .p.43; back cover

88. [Group photograph of wounded Japanese soldiers at Military Reserve Hospital in Hiroshima]. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (189) .p.41

89. Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, Surgeon General Sato, and entire medical staff of the Main Division, Reserve Hospital, Hiroshima, Japan. Title from Library of Congress stereocard White Co. #8371. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (248) .p.41

90. American Red Cross nurses, Dr. Anita McGee (centre) in charge, gardens of Military Hospital, Hiroshima, Japan. Title from Library of Congress stereocard White Co. #8369. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (247) .p.41

91*. [Group photograph of wounded Japanese soldiers at Military Reserve Hospital in Hiroshima]. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (190) .p.43

92*. Private Shimpei with Miss Newell, his nurse. Hiroshima. Text from Library of Congress stereocard 199-B: "Miss S. E. Newell and her favorite patient, a victim of Russian barbarism, who was shot thro. the knee and whilst lying helpless on the ground was bayoneted five times thro. the body." Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (215) .p.42

93. The Hosembo and many other temples at Hiroshima are full of wounded men. This temple is crowded with them. Title from Library of Congress stereograph #209-C. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (201) .p.41

94*. Japanese surgeon about to operate on wounded Russian, Prisoners' Hospital, Matsuyama, Japan. Title taken from similar picture in Library of Congress stereoscopic collection. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (197) .p.71

95*. [Japanese Red Cross nurse attending to a Russian patient in hospital at Matsuyama, Japan.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (119) .p.70

96*. [Nurses, medical staff and wounded Russian soldiers in hospital at Matsuyama, Japan.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (250) .p.68

97*. [Russian prisoners recuperating at hospital in Matuyama, Japan.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (246) .p.72

98*. [Wounded Russian patient attended by two Japanese Red Cross nurses, Matsuyama, Japan]. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (116) .p.70

99*. [Russian prisoners recuperating at hospital in Matuyama, Japan.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (245)p.72

100*. A ward of wounded Russian prisoners in the hospital at Matsuyama, Japan. Text from Library of Congress. Copyright 1905 by T. W. Ingersoll, published by Ingersoll View Company, St. Paul, Minnesota. Card # 146V. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (117) .p.69

101. [Japanese surgeon operating on wounded Russian, Prisoners' Hospital, Matsuyama, Japan] Title taken from similar view at Library of Congress. Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (204)

102*. [Russian patients outdoors folding bed linen at Matsuyama, Japan.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (118)p.69

103*. [Japanese Red Cross nurses and Russian patients outside hospital at Matsuyama, Japan.] Photograph by Herbert Ponting. (120)p.68

104. Street in Dalny [Dairen]. Russian houses partly destroyed. (177)

105. Dalny [Dairen]—The apparently-stone walls are food supplies of Japanese Army. (175)

106. Small transports at Antung wharf. Preparing to unload supplies for the army. (33)

107*. Wharf at Antung—troops arriving on lighters and ready to land. Looking up the Yalu. (47)p.56

108. Street in Antung, soldiers pulling cart with supplies. (208)

109*. View from Cemetery Hill, looking NW. Houses in outskirts of Antung, used as Etappen Hospital (*Heitan Byoin*). Road up the valley was the one taken by Russians who fled from Antung when capture of hills about Quarenjo [Chiu-lien-cheng] rendered their position untenable. Roof furthest back at right edge of picture is occupied by Russian prisoners. Low roofs in front of it are operating room and storage tent. Roof in center of group is office and quarters of commanding officer of hospital. (51)p.58

110*. View from Cemetery Hill, looking NW. Houses, outskirts of Antung, now part of Army Etappen Hospital (*Heitan Byoin*). At right, Buddhist temple of Tenkoqu (Palace of Heaven). The building I lived in [is] low roofed one, bisected by first pole. At foot of poles are cannon captured at battle of Yalu and parts of military bridge (metal pieces) thrown across Yalu, canvas-covered. Foreground, patients and a coolie are washing themselves. (52)p.59

111*. Representatives of Red Cross Society at Antung. Sitting row: Mr.____ pharmacist; Miss Sato from Tokyo, my interpreter (chief nurse of the R.C.S.); Mr. Yamada, manager for 1st Army; A.N. McGee; Doctor____; Mr. Fukude, my clerk. Behind Miss Sato is [the] clerk of the Antung detachment. Others: doctors and nurses. August [1904]. (36)p.57

112*. Group before Officers Ward, *Heitan Byoin* [Etappen Hospital], Antung. (49)

113. Patients being landed from sampan on stretchers, covered to protect from sun. (42)

114. Outside hospital wall. Patient on stretcher (covered from sun). (39)

115. Gate of hospital. Patient on covered stretcher, Antung. (174)

116*. Antung Hospital, operating room and dressing room beyond. (18)p.63

117*. Antung Hospital, Russian prisoners' ward. (26)p.63

118. Former custom house, outskirts of Antung, now used as part of Japanese Army hospital which Russians set fire to on leaving. Wall shows effects of fire, and several buildings have new roofs of American building paper. One building shows men finishing roof. Path just back of them is the one over which patients walk, or are carried on stretchers, when coming from the front. View from hill where Japanese cemetery is looking N.W. Buildings in enclosure at left belong to Danish Mission. (55)

119. Antung Hospital, in front of a ward. First row, patients. Second row, doctors in surgical dress ([Dr.] Hayashi Santo Guni left of the two) and nurses. (122)

120*. The Army doctors, nurses and attendants stationed at Antung, Manchuria. July 1904. Taken before Buddhist temple. Chinaman at left is owner of some of houses used for hospital. His sons in center. Behind him, in felt hat, the Japanese-Russian-Chinese interpreter. Commanding officer of hospital, Major Dr. Narabayashi, center of 2nd row, behind Chinese boy. (54)p.61

121*. Russian prisoners at Antung. Some wounded. 38 men and 2 officers went to Japan on ship with me. (154)p.66

122*. Military funeral in military club house. Hiroshima, Autumn 1904. A. N. McGee in background at left. (50)p.49

123*. Antung—July 1904. Officers at cemetery for soldiers dying at (and after) battle of Yalu, on hill overlooking the city (graves not shown). Principal monument at left of picture. Commanding Officer at Antung, Major Ushiwatari, stands in center. Second to right of him (4th head) is a Buddhist priest; (5th head) Major Dr. Narabayashi; left of Commanding officer is Major Dr. Hayashi. (53)p.60

124. Toyosaku Sekine, Commander of S.S. *Hakuai Maru*, Japanese Red Cross hospital ship. Ujima 9/6/04. Ujima, port of Hiroshima, Japan, [is a] port of debarkation of patients. (146)

125*. One of the leading nurses of Japan in her outdoor uniform, wearing her war medals and decorations. Miss Suwo, Chief Nurse of *Hakuai Maru*, a hospital ship of the Red Cross Society. M. Nakaguro, photographer, Nihome Yumicho, Hongoku, Tokyo. (76)p.33

126*. Wounded Russian prisoners landing from the hospital ship *Hakuai Maru* at Takahama, the port of Matsuyama. (142)p.52

127. The severely wounded on the way to a hospital ship from barracks at Chi-nam-po, Corea [Korea]. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (103)

128. The sick and wounded being taken on board the ship *Heijo Maru* at the first pier of the [harbor at] Tai-dong-gang, Corea [Korea]. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (93)

129. The sick and wounded to be transported the fourth time from a field hospital to Japan getting on board the ship *Tetsudo Maru*. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (96)

130. The sick and wounded stopping at the harbour of Tai-dong-gang to get on board the hospital ship *Kosai Maru*, transporting them the fourth time from a field hospital to Japan. Distributed by Yegi-Honten. (95)

131. "To Dr. McGee with best wishes, Kitajuna, *Kosai Maru*." G. Hatsui, photographer. Hiroshima. (71)

132*. *Kosai Maru* of Japanese Red Cross—one of the 2 sister ships built for hospital ships in war—used commercially in peace. Other was *Hakuai Maru*. Dr. McGee went on *Kosai Maru* to Korea—Manchuria. Y. Matsui, photographer, Hiroshima. (169)p.52

133*. Patient being carried from lighter into *Kosai Maru* by male nurse. The lighter, on which the photographer stands, is tied to the hospital ship while patients are transferred. (9)p.53

134. Patients on lighter beside *Kosai Maru*, waiting their turn to go aboard. Mouth of Yalu River. (214)

135*. Privates Iwasaki and Nakano standing on *Kosai Maru*. Heros of stories in *Century* [Magazine] May 1905. (11)p.54

136*. [Russian prisoners recovering from wounds on Japanese hospital ship *Kobe Maru*]. (101)p.54

137*. Patients being carried by male nurses from lighter into *Kosai Maru*, Captain Honma at right. (8)p.53

138. Wounded patient on *Kobe Maru*, naval hospital ship. (183)

139. Sick patients on *Kobe Maru*. *Kobe Maru* (is) one of the 2 regular hospital ships. Large open, main "ward." (Stamped from The Century Co. New York City and used in McGee's article.) (160)

140. Corpse room on *Kobe Maru*. Buddhist priest praying for dead. (163)

141. Non-Commissioned Officers on *Kobe Maru*. (106)

142. Dispensary, *Kobe Maru*. (105)

143. Pharmacy, *Kobe Maru*. (172)

144. Chemical and Bact. [Bacteriological] laboratory on *Kobe Maru*. (161)

145. X-ray room on *Kobe Maru*. (184)

146. Dark room on *Kobe Maru*. (165)

147. Disinfecting plant on *Kobe Maru*. (104)

148. Preparatory operation room on *Kobe Maru*. (173)

149. Operation room on *Kobe Maru*. (171)

150. Hiroshima—Cavalry fording river. (34)

151. Hiroshima—Cavalry practice. (135)

152*. Hiroshima—Recruits being trained in out-of-door gymnasium. (138)p.38

153. Hiroshima—Soldiers at work. All are well-drilled and exercised before going to the field. (130)

154*. Hiroshima—Work stables. (137)p.38

155. Bird's-eye view of the Kyoto Imperial University from the Yoshida Hill. (59)

156. Library building, Kyoto Imperial University. (57)

157. Main building, Kyoto Imperial University. (56)

158. Hospital of the medical college, Kyoto Imperial University. (58)

159. Tea house at Shimonoseki, where treaty of peace with China was signed. (221)

160. Iwaso Hotel, Miyajima. View of the garden.(166)

161. Iwaso Hotel, Miyajima. View of the garden. (167)

162. View of Shimoda, where treaty was signed between Tonagawa Government and Mr. Harris. (44)

163. View of Numadzu from Ushibua. (45)

164. Cherry-Flower of Kogamei (Nearly Toyko). (111)

165. [Buddha statue at Kamakura, Japan]. (108)

166. Fuji from Sudzukawa (Ka-Aibashi) Bridge, Kame. (113)

167. Wrestling. (131)

168. [Rickshas near cherry trees in bloom]. (110)

169. [Sumo wrestling event]. (133)

170. Shiraito waterfalls. (65)

171. Shiozu Ura. (64)

172. Salted fishes. (115)

173. [Man on horse in field with Fuji behind him] (114)

174. Bund of Kobe. (109)

175. Chrysanthemum at Nozawa's Garden, Yokohama. (134)

176. Fruit shop. (112)

177. [Three ladies in rickshaws with cherry trees in bloom]. (132)

178. View of Fujiyama from Shiozu-Ura. (62)

179. Sano waterfalls. (63)

180*. Formal portrait of Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, wearing her medals. (182)p.5

181. Antung—Ward in old custom house, beri-beri patients. (38)



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Japanese Field Hospital, Max Cowper, Artist, circa 1905. Drawn for publication in Black & White Magazine. (Collection of Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf)

